

Our Man Friday signs off
Longtime political editor Wayne
Friday announces his retirement.

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Head to 'south' San Francisco
Sunny Puerto Vallarta has lots
to offer gay & lesbian travelers.

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Alive and 'Well'
Lisa Kron of *Fiye*
Lesbian Brothers.

see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Bush backs marriage amendment

by Bob Roebr

President Bush reiterated his support for a constitutional amendment that would "protect the institution of marriage" in his State of the Union address delivered before Congress and the nation Wednesday, February 2.

He also called for reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act that provides a large portion of the medical and social services for people living with HIV infection. In doing so he said, "We must focus our efforts on fellow citizens with the highest rates of new cases: African American men and women."

Bush framed his support for the marriage amendment as a "responsibility ... to honor and pass along the values that sustain a free society. ... Government is not the source of these values, but government should never undermine them."

"Because marriage is a sacred institution and the foundation of society, it should not be redefined by activist judges. For the good of families, children, and society, I support a constitutional amendment to protect the institution of marriage."

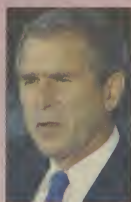
The president did not mention by name the Marriage Protection Amendment introduced on January 24 by Colorado GOP Senator Wayne Allard. The list of Republican cosponsors for the MPA has grown to 26.

Washington Post political reporter Robert G. Kaiser called Bush's remarks "a bone" thrown to the Christian right. He does not expect the president to push for the measure nor does he expect that it will pass. Kaiser made the comments during an exchange with readers on the Post's Web site immediately after the speech.

Kaiser's colleague, media critic Tom Shales, wrote in the next day's edition of the *Post* that Bush's call "to protect the institution of marriage," was a euphemism for banning same-sex marriages, though Bush didn't mention them. The man who likes to speak, as he did in this speech, of America's great "compassion" and who has been holding forth loudly of late on the sanctity of freedom apparently believes both compassion and freedom should have their limits.

"President Bush said that government should never undermine family values and family responsibilities, but in the very next breath, called for passage of a constitutional amendment that undermines GLBT families and denies them the same responsibilities as others," said Human Rights Campaign

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President Bush

Guns and gay rights directly linked, say some

by Zak Szymanski



Noemi Margaret fires her gun at the Jackson Arms shooting range.

The room rumbled and startled with every shot. Explosions surrounded people on all sides, bullet casings flew through the air and hit nearby observers in the head. A group of young men competed as their girlfriends cheered them on, laughing as they blew through targets drawn in human form.

Noemi Margaret — a self-described poly, kinky, queer woman — grew up in a "white, middle-class, liberal household," she explained as she snapped bullets into the magazine of her handgun and fired a near-perfect round into a paper bull's-eye at the Jackson Arms shooting range in South San Francisco.

Yet rather than running contrary to her political beliefs, said Margaret, owning and firing guns is very much a progressive and gay issue, and one that "the left continually hands to the right. A lot of liberals don't trust their government but want their government to be the only ones with guns. It's not a civil liber-

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Filmmaker captures first 'I do'

by Matthew S. Bajko

Local filmmaker Debra Chasnoff had just walked into the Women's Educational Media offices on Bryant Street around 9 a.m. last February 12 when her phone rang. On the line was her longtime friend, Joyce Newstat, Mayor Gavin Newsom's policy director.

Newstat urged Chasnoff to rush down to City Hall in order to film the first same-sex couple to be married by San Francisco city officials that morning. Astounded, Chasnoff's first reaction was one of disbelief.

"I said 'What are you talking about? You can't do that.' She said, 'I know, but we are,'" recalled Chasnoff, an Academy-Award winning documentarian and out lesbian. "I dropped everything that day and raced down to City Hall."

As luck would have it, cinematographer Sophie Constantinou was nearby and had her camera equipment in her car. After picking up Chasnoff, she drove the two downtown and the women raced through City Hall toward Assessor-Recorder Mabel Teng's office.

There, waiting to exchange rings and marriage vows, sat lesbian rights pioneers Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin. The couple, who have been together more than 50 years, were about to make history and spark a cultural and political revolution that still rages more than a year later.

Catching it all on film were Chasnoff and Constantinou, who documented everything from City Clerk Nancy Alfaro going over Martin and Lyon's paperwork — including giving the elderly couple family planning information — to an excited and nervous Teng presiding over the marriage ceremony and



Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin share a kiss February 13, 2004, the day after their wedding.

reversing the couple's names.

The stumble prompted Lyon to remark, "I am Phyllis and she is Del."

The exchange brings a moment of levity to an otherwise emotionally charged event. In a matter of minutes, with rings exchanged and tears flowing down the faces of the nearly dozen people in the room, Teng announces the women "spouses for life" and says of their marriage, "I know you can do it, you've done it for more than 50 years."

"It was incredibly moving to be in the room where that was taking place. History was happening right in front of my eyes," recalled Chasnoff. "Years and years of struggle were telescoped into one moment."

"I really couldn't believe it was happening,"

she added. "I think in all the years I have been out as a lesbian and active on behalf of our civil rights, I didn't ever imagine contemplating having a government official perform a wedding ceremony that would be legal."

Two months later, Chasnoff and co-producer Kate Stilley turned the footage of the wedding, along with interviews with Newsom and others, into the 20-minute film *One Wedding and a ... Revolution*. The short documentary has gone on to win film festival accolades around the world and will be shown free of charge to the public this Saturday, February 12 at the Main Library to mark the one-year anniversary of that historic day.

While other filmmakers have focused their camera lenses on the more than 4,000 same-sex couples who married over the 29 days San Francisco was able to perform the wedding ceremonies, Chasnoff and Stilley end theirs with the first wedding.

The main focus of their film is "the political decision making that led up to that moment. It is not about the 4,000 couples who got married. It ends there with Phyllis and Del," explained Chasnoff.

Within one day of shooting last April, the women interviewed Newsom, Newstat, Teng, and Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, about the days leading up to February 12. On camera, Newsom recalls listening to President Bush endorse a federal marriage amendment during his State of the Union address that winter,

at which Newsom was present.

"I called my City Hall staff and said we

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Filmmaker Debra Chasnoff

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Stop AIDS hires new ED

by Matthew S. Bajko

Continuing his fundraising and management experience, the Stop AIDS Project's board of directors hired Robert J. McMullin as the agency's new executive director.

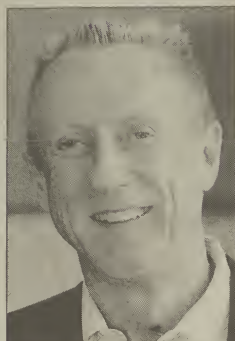
McMullin, 58, a gay man who has been HIV-positive since at least 1994, began work Monday, February 7. He will receive an annual salary of \$93,000, nearly \$30,000 more than the previous director, Darlene Weide, who resigned from the post September 30, 2004.

"We are excited to have attracted more than 60 applicants to this competitive process, and are thrilled to bring such an exceptional candidate to the helm of the organization," said Thomas Bruein, Stop AIDS board president in a statement announcing the hire. "Robert brings to Stop AIDS a proven track record of leadership, fundraising and management experience, making him a fantastic fit for us as we move toward the future."

Born and raised in Los Angeles, McMullin served as the LA Gay and Lesbian Center's director of development from 1994 until 2002. During that time, McMullin helped oversee the center grow from a \$12 million agency to a \$30 million agency. He also worked closely with counterparts at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation when the two agencies broke ties with fundraiser Dan Pallotta over questionable charges related to the Pallotta-run AIDS Ride.

Between 2003 and 2004 he worked as the director of development for the St. Francis Center in Venice, California, which works with the homeless and working poor. Last year he served as a fundraising consultant with LA Shanti.

McMullin studied voice and piano from the age of 9 and studied musicology and music history



Jane Philomena Cleland

Exec. Director Robert McMullin

at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. His musical background led him to the LA Chamber Orchestra, where he was director of development. McMullin also served as the executive director of the Pasadena, California and Huntsville, Alabama Symphony Orchestras.

When the position with Stop AIDS became available, McMullin said he saw it as an opportunity to make a meaningful impact within the gay community.

"Like most gay men, HIV has impacted me, my friends, and my community too often and too deeply. I've lost a number of the most important people in my life to AIDS," said McMullin. "Right now, each of us has opportunities to minimize the continuing impact of HIV in our community and among our friends and partners while creating the kind of community that we long for and deserve. That is the promise of HIV prevention and the reason I am drawn to the Stop AIDS Project."

Short on HIV work

While McMullin has nearly 20 years experience as a fundraiser, missing from his resume is any work overseeing the development and institution of HIV prevention programs or campaigns. Already, critics of the agency have questioned his ability to lead Stop AIDS.

In a letter sent to Bruein, AIDS activist Michael Petrelis asked what McMullin has done to either stop AIDS or reduce HIV rates. "What exactly are his qualifications to run an organization dedicated to stopping AIDS in the gay community? There is nothing in your release telling me what your new director has ever done to stop AIDS, which I thought was your agenda," wrote Petrelis.

McMullin countered by saying he will rely on the staff's experience and expertise in developing programming while his main focus will be fundraising, financial, and administrative functions.

"I think they have appropriately assessed that they have a great deal of strength and depth in programmatic areas of the agency. A lot of people on staff have been here enough time and are well rooted in the organization and know how to run those programs," he said. "They unquestionably assessed that what they really needed was two things: strong leadership and an ability to help them chart what the future was going to be in terms of fundraising."

The agency suffered a funding setback last year when it lost its federal funding and has since relied on city funds and private donations to cover an annual budget of \$1.5 million. Stop AIDS was forced to layoff several staff members and now employs 16 people.

McMullin said after reviewing the agency's finances that it currently looks "very stable in terms of revenue" and that its programming plans for this year "seem very safe and prudent."

But, he added, "I think that one thing we need to do is look at how can we diversify our funding for the future. As it happens that is my specific strong suit."

He cautioned, "I don't really know yet" how difficult finding new revenue streams for the agency will be, adding, "I am going to have to test those waters."

In the meantime, McMullin said he is also supportive of diversifying the agency's approach to HIV prevention. Under Weide's leadership, Stop AIDS received criticism for not addressing how speed use among gay men can be a factor in acquiring HIV.

Since last fall the agency has launched a new crystal campaign and plans to launch more initiatives this year aimed at changing gay men's perception of speed as an acceptable party drug.

"There is no question in my mind that a wide array of health problems exist in the community and are related to lots of other issues besides if someone wears a condom or not," said McMullin. "Crystal meth is not the source of the problem, it is also a symptom of the problem. Why do people use crystal meth? It is related to issues of self image."

As executive director, McMullin said he is committed to

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Hansen named to Ethics Commission

by Zak Szymanski

A short period of intense political controversy has ended – for now – with the appointment of progressive lesbian activist Eileen Hansen to the city's Ethics Commission.

The Board of Supervisors voted 7-3 on Tuesday, February 8 to approve Hansen for the position, despite several days of public mudslinging and media scrutiny that called into question Hansen's ability to do the job.

Voting against Hansen's appointment were Supervisors Gerardo Sandoval, Michela Alioto-Pier, and Sean Elsbernd. Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, who voted for Hansen's advancement during committee, was absent for the confirmation vote.

The Ethics Commission oversees government conduct and campaign finance laws. Hansen replaces former Commissioner Michael Garcia whose term expired but who had sought re-appointment to the panel.

Hansen's political and activist career is extensive, from her early work for women's rights and against the Vietnam War to her director positions with organizations like the Women's AIDS Network and the National Lawyers Guild AIDS Network. She served for three years on the San Francisco Building Inspection Commission. And she worked as a policy director for the AIDS Legal Referral Panel.

At issue for many during the Ethics Commission appointment was Hansen's past political involvement, from her two campaigns for city supervisor in District 8 to her steadfast support for some of the politicians she is now expected to monitor.

Additionally, Hansen's past campaigns included some Ethics Commission violations of her own – such as her failure to register as a consultant during Super-



New Commissioner Eileen Hansen

visor Tom Ammiano's 1999 mayoral campaign – but many supervisors pointed out that such infractions were common, bureaucratic errors that she cleared up immediately.

Hansen is "a political ally of members of the board's liberal majority," according to longtime gay political observer Arthur Evans, who criticized her appointment. Hansen's nomination for the position came from Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Sophie Maxwell, both past recipients of her campaign donations.

Yet Hansen also received unwavering support from Supervisor Bevan Dufty, a more moderate elected official who was victorious over Hansen during the 2002 race for supervisor.

Before Tuesday's vote, Dufty told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he was "going to be consistent" and that he was "disappointed" by the way the controversy had unfolded.

"I'm confident that she sees this as a higher calling," said Dufty, pointing out that her agreement to step out of the political arena was an indicator of her dedication. "I've always felt she was a person of talent and ability and I think that she has a valuable perspective,

having been a candidate and having worked for candidates."

Dufty also dismissed speculation that he was supporting Hansen's appointment because her service on the commission would ensure that she could not run against him in the next race for supervisor.

"As for my own political reality I'm fully confident that people will run in District 8 who see themselves as different from me. I've always said this is the job of a lifetime, and if people didn't run then they wouldn't believe me as a credible source that this is a great job. I'm not anyone's opponent, I'm simply a choice, and I welcome as many people as possible to enter that race."

Before Tuesday's vote, Hansen told the *B.A.R.* that she was committed to carrying out her position with integrity.

"I have entered this with an understanding about what I would have to give up and change in terms of my political involvement and I do feel I can do this job from an extremely ethical place," said Hansen. "I also understand that my actions will be highly scrutinized – and perhaps held to a higher standard than others – and that's okay. People may disagree with some of my decisions, but I will be able to explain them, and they will be clean decisions." ▼

Stop AIDS

◀ previous page

seeing Stop AIDS assist the Department of Public Health reach its goal of reducing new HIV infections by 50 percent. And he also intends to help the agency move HIV prevention efforts into the places where gay and bisexual

men meet and live.

"One of the greatest opportunities working in the LGBT community and in HIV/AIDS is that things are always changing," said McMullin. "I enjoy keeping organizations on the cutting edge by encouraging constant creativity and innovation. My job is to make sure that things are in place organizationally for that to occur." ▼

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Mardi Gras, San Francisco style!



NICK GEMITTER

Queen II Deana Dawn of the Krewe de Kinque greets a fellow reveler as she arrives with King Mark Paladini at Marlena's bar during the second Mardi Gras pub crawl in San Francisco. Organized by longtime fundraiser Gary Virginia, over 60 people participated in this year's festivities, moving between bars via decorated motorized cable cars. Organizers said several thousand dollars were raised for the Positive Resource Center and the AIDS/Breast Cancer Emergency Fund.

Shirley Chisholm tribute on Saturday

compiled by Cynthia Laird

Supervisor Bevan Dufty, KQED, and PBS' POV program will host a free public memorial tribute to the late Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm Saturday, February 12 at 11:30 a.m. at the Castro Theatre, 429 Castro Street, in San Francisco.

Chisholm, 80, was the first African American to serve in the House of Representatives and the first black woman to seek a major party presidential nomination. She died January 1.

Saturday's public tribute will feature the first theatrical showing of *Chisholm '72: Unbought and Unbossed*, a biographical documentary of her life. Filmmaker Shola Lynch will introduce the film, and Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-Oakland) and Dufty will also address the audience. Dufty used to work for Chisholm.

"Shirley Chisholm was my first boss and an incredible mentor and role model," said Dufty, who worked for the New York congresswoman from 1976-1979.

Ted Nasser, owner of the Castro Theatre, is also helping with the event and praised Chisholm's contributions.

Lynch's film will be shown on KQED, channel 9, Sunday, February 13 at 10:30 p.m.

"Shola's film is an incredible tribute to Chisholm," Dufty said. "That was a turbulent time, which has very contemporary lessons. In 1972, Richard Nixon was forging into a second term and the Vietnam War was tearing our country apart. I hope this memorial can be a celebration and redemption to the causes Shirley Chisholm personified."

Entrance will be on a first come, first served basis.

Leather Pride meeting

A "leather rap session" for the San Francisco Pride celebration is scheduled for Saturday, February

12 from 3 to 5 p.m. in room 301 of the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street. Leather representatives of the Pride Committee will moderate the meeting, which is being held to discuss concerns, suggestions, and new possibilities for this year's Pride Parade and festival.

For more information, call the Pride office at (415) 864-3733.

Dessert benefit Sunday

Project Open Hand will hold its fifth annual "Dessert First" event Sunday, February 13 from 5 to 9 p.m. at One Market Restaurant, 1 Market Street, in San Francisco.

Some of the Bay Area's most talented pastry chefs, including Elizabeth Falkner of Citizen Cake and Citizen Cupcake, will assemble an array of sweet treats for the evening.

Founded by pastry chef Salina Rubio of Lark Creek Inn Restaurant and Rubio Chocolates, Dessert First also will feature a special live auction featuring impressive dessert creations. Other highlights include hors d'oeuvres, wine, champagne, port tasting, and a performance by the Jenna Mammino duo, singing selections from their new CD, *Inner Smile*.

One hundred percent of the proceeds from the event will benefit Project Open Hand, which provides meals to people living with HIV/AIDS, the homebound critically ill, and seniors.

Tickets to the event are \$75 each in advance (\$60 each for four or more tickets) and can be ordered by calling (415) 447-2416 or visiting www.openhand.org.

Small business workshop

The LGBT Community Center and the Small Business Administration will offer training for people interested in starting their own businesses Wednesday, February 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the center, 1800 Market Street in San Francisco.

The joint workshop will provide information on marketing,

management assistance, business registration, financing, and resources for small businesses. The seminar also will feature a small business owner who recently started her own company.

"This seminar will help people consider the option of starting a business by breaking down the process of a business start-up into basic steps," said Ken Stram, director of economic development at the center.

Registration is free and includes lunch. To reserve a spot, call (415) 865-5515 or e-mail Stram at kens@sfcenter.org.

Meetings for new AIDS group

The Campaign to End AIDS is a new national grassroots activist group that is forming and interested people are invited to attend community meetings next week in Oakland and San Francisco. Local coordinator Anne-Christine d'Adesky said in an e-mail that the new group is being modeled on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1968 Poor People's Campaign and will feature lobby days in Washington, D.C. in early May, followed by state caravans, and a national encampment and rally in October. CEA was organized by 25 large and small national AIDS organizations with the goal of revitalizing the domestic AIDS movement and linking it to international AIDS advocacy. Next week's meetings are part of a larger West Coast tour by speakers from the campaign.

In Oakland, a meeting takes place Wednesday, February 16 at 5 p.m. at 1000 Broadway, 5th floor. Speakers include Charles King of New York City's Housing Works, and Gloria Cox Crowell of the East Bay AIDS Advocacy Coalition.

In San Francisco, the meeting takes place Thursday, February 17 at 6 p.m. at the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, 4233 19th Street, at Collingwood. Speakers will include King and Ernest Hopkins from the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

For more information, call

Moore kicks off Oakland council campaign

by Cynthia Laird

Peggy Moore celebrated Mardi Gras Tuesday, February 8 and used the occasion to kick off her campaign to replace Danny Wan on the Oakland City Council.

Wan resigned his District 2 seat last month, after tearfully acknowledging he did not make enough money to help support his aging parents. There is still a year left on Wan's term, and a special election will determine who fills the spot. Moore noted that so far, nine candidates have entered the race, though the filing period doesn't end until February 18.

The vote-by-mail election takes place between April 19 and May 17 and there is no runoff; the person with the most votes wins. The deadline to register to vote in the special election is May 2.

Moore, 41, is an out lesbian who works with Lavender Seniors of the East Bay. She got her start in local politics several years ago helping organize the No on Knight campaign in the East Bay that worked unsuccessfully to fight the antigay Proposition 22. She also was active in the former East Bay Pride, helped found the Sistahs Steppin' in Pride Dyke March, and worked on last fall's Out in Oakland event.

She acknowledged that the timing of Wan's departure caught



Candidate Peggy Moore

her by surprise and that she had to accelerate her plans to seek elective office.

"I decided in December that I'd step up and maybe run for Danny's seat in 2006," Moore told about 60 supporters gathered at an Oakland restaurant. "It's 2005 and when you say yes to the universe, you just have to be ready."

The council districts in Oakland are much more geographically spread out than in San Francisco. Oakland's District 2 includes the Grand Lake, Eastlake, Bella Vista, San Antonio, and Chinatown neighborhoods. There are 26,998 registered voters in the district, according to the Alameda County Registrar's office.

"It is one of the largest and most diverse districts in Oakland," Moore said.

Redevelopment is one of the issues facing the district, and Moore, who told the *Bay Area Reporter* that she's opposed to gentrification, pointed out that many people who she used to call neighbors have had to move out of the city because they could no longer afford to live there.

"Danny decided to leave his seat because he was not making enough money," she pointed out.

Indian gambling casinos are another hot issue in Oakland, and one that Moore opposes.

"I am definitely not in favor of casinos. What I am in favor of is a WNBA basketball team," Moore said to laughter.

Moore acknowledged her partner, Anissa Primus Alston, and her mother Betty Holmes, both of whom attended the event along with her sister, Tracy Holmes.

Gay Oakland resident Jonathan Winters, who worked with Moore on No on Knight, spoke of Moore's commitment to the community and said that the District 2 seat should remain represented by a member of the LGBT community. Wan was the first and only openly gay man on the City Council and his departure leaves a void in city politics.

"I have a lot of passion for Oakland," Moore said. Her cam-

page 23 ►

Is there something you wish you had said to someone who died but couldn't?

If this question is relevant to you, we invite you to take a few moments to write down your response(s) to it. It could be just a word, a sentence, or a paragraph. You can sign your names or remain anonymous. Whatever you are comfortable with. Then mail them to us.

From April 20-June 11, 2005 an exhibit entitled, "In Passing: a show about death", curated by Todd Herman, will be held at the San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery, 401 Van Ness Ave (at McAllister).

As part of the exhibit a 12 foot wall in the gallery will be devoted to your responses as a way to commemorate those who have passed, as well as those unspoken truths we carry with us.

Your handwritten responses can be any size not larger than 8 x 10 inches, and must be received by post-mail (no e-mail please) by **February 21, 2005**.

We would be honored to include you in this exhibit.

Please mail your responses to :
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To learn more about the exhibit visit www.thedancingtree.org/inpassingpublish.html

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OPEN FORUM

Our state of the union

The state of the union for LGBT Americans is not "confident and strong." That was how President Bush described the state of the country in his annual address to Congress and the American people last week, and we beg to differ mightily.

Contrary to the president's description of the country, we face an increased onslaught of hate and intolerance.

As we noted last week in this space, Bush administration officials have stepped up their intimidating rhetoric against gays by recently forcing public television to yank an episode of a children's program that featured a family headed by lesbians. And it's been reported that conservative commentators opposed to same-sex marriage have been on the federal payroll. On Tuesday, the Virginia House overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, joining the state Senate, which earlier approved a similar measure, setting the stage for a ballot initiative in November 2006.

Shortly before last fall's election, Bush made comments indicating that he was not opposed to civil unions for same-sex couples. In the period between his re-election and inauguration, Bush gave several interviews to print and television reporters in which he admitted that there was not sufficient support in Congress to pass a federal constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. Those remarks, not surprisingly, ticked off religious conservatives, but reflected the political reality.

Then came Bush's State of the Union speech. After providing sketchy details about his plan to overhaul Social Security during the first portion of his address, Bush took aim at LGBT Americans:

"Our second great responsibility to our children and grandchildren is to honor and to pass along the shared values that sustain a free society. So many of my generation, after a long journey, have come home to family and faith, and are determined to bring up responsible, moral children. Government is not the source of these values, but government should never undermine them."

Then, Bush fired:

"Because marriage is a sacred institution and the foundation of society, it should not be redefined by activist judges. For the good of families, children, and society, I support a constitutional amendment to protect the institution of marriage."

To those of us watching on TV, it was a punch in the gut. It made all his earlier statements hinting at tolerance moot and, naturally, made the religious right squeal with delight.

Those two sentences, while fewer than the eight Bush used in his 2004 State of the Union talking about marriage (thanks to Style.org and its parsing the State of the Union, which provides a historical com-

parison of speeches), nevertheless are far, far more offensive and excessive in their content. Bush was drawing a line in the sand, and once again perpetuating the myth that children suffer when raised by same-sex parents. He was also reinforcing false fear spread by homophobes that malign gays as child molesters. "To protect our children, we must protect marriage," was what the president was really saying.

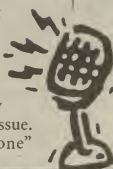
Afterwards, pundits started offering their take on the speech, but few mentioned Bush's remarks on marriage. On CNN, one commentator remarked how "surprising" it was that "he pushed for it so hard," especially given his recent softening on the issue. Others felt it was simply a "bone" thrown to the religious right for its help in getting Bush re-elected. Gay conservative Andrew Sullivan was live-blogging the speech for CNN. Curiously, in an appearance on TV following the speech, he made no mention of the marriage portion of Bush's remarks, even though he has roundly criticized the president for his position and supports same-sex marriage. At a time when we are under such attack, it was maddening that Sullivan didn't offer one word. The next day we e-mailed Sullivan to ask why he didn't use some of his airtime to bring up the topic, but we have yet to hear from him.

And so the marriage battle continues. Saturday, of course, marks the one-year an-

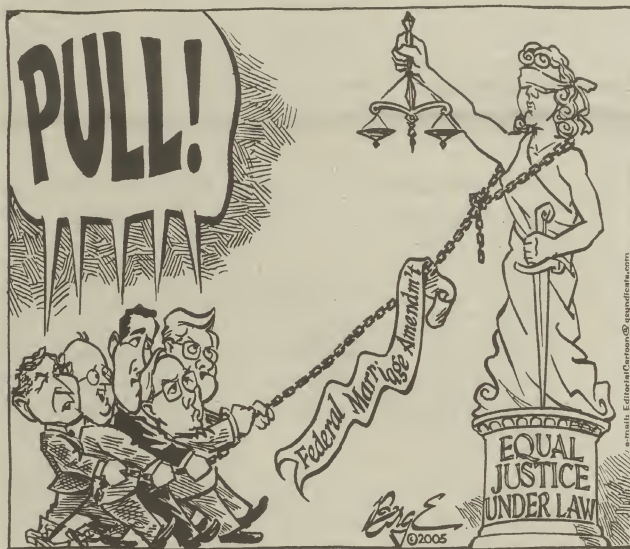
niversary of the gay marriages that took place in San Francisco. It's important to remember that it was Bush's State of the Union speech last year that compelled Mayor Gavin Newsom to act on his bold decision to allow city officials to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. And one year later, Bush is still actively denying gay and lesbian couples equal rights, while Newsom still faces criticism from fellow Democrats for his activism.

Remember how alarmist and hysterical Republicans were after the marriages started (Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's lame statement on *Meet the Press* that there could be riots in the streets if the marriage continued) and television screens around the world were filled with images of joyful couples in City Hall? Hundreds lined up around the block day after day for a chance finally to be treated equally, arriving from nearly every state in the union, even the red ones.

It's not going to be an easy four years, especially with a president working to spend the "political capital" he feels he's earned since winning re-election by stoking the fire of discrimination and hatred, kissing the backsides of folks like Rick Santorum, Tom Coburn, James Dobson, Tony Perkins, and the like. But it's time for the conservatives to stop playing games with the rhetoric, and repeating the "but what about the children?" refrain that is so disingenuous. We'd rather they just acknowledge themselves as the bigots they are. ▼



Editorial



HIV drugs can be a safety net

by Dr. Ronald O. Valdiserri

With safer sex fatigue, an epidemic of crystal methamphetamine use, and numerous other factors likely contributing to rising HIV diagnoses among gay men, new prevention options to help uninfected individuals stay negative are urgently needed. New national guidelines, issued last month, on the use of antiretroviral drugs to prevent infection after exposure to HIV may provide gay men across the country with an important safety net to prevent HIV infection.

This prevention alternative, called non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis (NPEP), involves taking a combination of three antiretroviral drugs following high-risk exposure to HIV through sexual intercourse, sexual assault, or injection drug use. When treatment is started quickly and continued for 28 days, NPEP may keep HIV infection from taking hold in the body.

The precedent for using antiretroviral drugs to prevent HIV is well established. Post-exposure prophylaxis has been recommended since 1996 to reduce the risk of HIV infection for health care workers exposed to HIV on the job (e.g. through needlestick). In observational studies, post-exposure prophylaxis has been associated with an 80 percent reduction in infection risk in the occupational setting. Since 1996, new data from human and animal studies, including encouraging results from case studies and registries of people using NPEP in other countries, have provided the necessary evidence to support its use in certain non-occupational settings and circumstances.

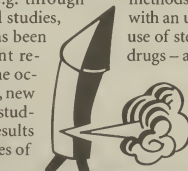
While NPEP can reduce the chances of infection in people who have been exposed, it is not a quick fix. Individuals who take NPEP must adhere to a daily regimen of

several drugs for a full four weeks, often with unpleasant, though usually transient, side effects. This intervention should be regarded as a last resort, for use on those rare occasions when primary HIV prevention methods — abstinence, mutual monogamy with an uninfected partner, condom use, or use of sterile needles and syringes to inject drugs — are not used or do not work.

Gay men most likely to benefit from NPEP are those who usually take precautions, such as using condoms, but who occasionally lapse in using protection or experience condom breakage during sex — particularly if they know their partner is HIV-positive. For NPEP to prevent infection, gay men and their health care providers must use it correctly. Keep the following in mind:

- NPEP must be started immediately. If

next page ►



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Clarification from Log Cabin

Thank you very much for your article on Log Cabin Republicans' hiring of Jeff Bissiri as executive director and the opening of our new office in Sacramento [*"Log Cabin hires West Coast director," January 27*]. LCR appreciates the coverage that the B.A.R. and Matthew Bajko have given us over the past couple of years.

But one correction, please. In the article, Equality California's executive director Geoff Kors is quoted as saying that none of the Republicans currently in the Legislature has "ever voted for a LGBT civil rights bill." Kors is incorrect. Last year, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 1234, Senator Sheila Kuehl's comprehensive hate crimes bill. Governor Schwarzenegger signed it into law. In the Assembly, four Republicans voted for the bill: Keith Richman of Northridge, Abel Maldonado from the central coast, Shirley Horton of Chula Vista, and Bonnie Garcia of Cathedral City. As the sponsor of SB1234, Equality California should be well aware of the fact that its bill won with Republican votes.

Maldonado now represents part of the Bay Area in the state Senate. With our new office in Sacramento, Log Cabin looks forward to working further with these moderates and other Republican legislators to increase Republican support for gay civil rights.

Paul R. Lynd, President
Log Cabin Republicans San Francisco

Irony

What an irony. In the same issue, one front-page story appeals to gay men not to become "bitches" [*"Homoboy serves as latest crusader in fight against HIV," January 27*] and in another [*"Gay bishop visits Bay Area"*], Bishop Gene Robinson is saying, "As gay men we especially need to understand how homophobia is related to misogyny. As an openly gay man I am turning my back on being more male at the expense of all of our sisters. It means sexist jokes and sexist political decisions don't go there anymore."

Let's hope the ones he's talking about are listening out there.

Max Dashu
Oakland, California

Perverts in the Pentagon

Reports from Guantanamo now reveal that the Bush administration used female interrogators wearing mini skirts and thong underwear to break down Muslim prisoners – even smearing fake menstrual blood on their faces, although Islamic law forbids such contact.

After the Defense Department sent General Geoffrey Miller, the Guantanamo commander, to Iraq to "rapidly exploit internees for actionable intelligence," the photos started pouring forth from Abu Ghraib. It makes this homosexual ask, "Who are the real perverts?"

Torturers, and especially those who give the orders, take the natural sexual impulse and pervert it into sexual abuse – forced nudity and masturbation, cross dressing, electric shocks on genitals, broomsticks forced up assholes, rape. In using sexual humiliation to "soften up" prisoners for interrogation, who is committing "unnatural acts," and who are the real perverts?

George W. Bush and the world's pleasure-hating fundamentalists condemn our community as a threat to "traditional values," but isn't it "traditional values" that gave us Abu Ghraib? Isn't the perversion of sexuality to torture the logical consequence of a repressed fundamentalist ideology that preaches "abstinence only" and condemns homosexuality as a sin against

God? What an outrage that we should witness this perverse barbarity at the same time the fundamentalists fight so hard to prevent our expression of love through same-sex marriage.

Our community approaches sexuality with the intent of offering mutual pleasure and satisfaction, as long as all partners consent. Our military commanders approach sexuality as a way to torture and humiliate in order to extract information, with the humiliation augmented exponentially by Islamic sexual sensibilities. So are there perverts in the Pentagon? Yes, but this is the U.S. military. Don't ask and don't tell.

Charlie Hinton
San Francisco

No prayers for pope

I will not pray for Pope John Paul II and I'll explain why. The pope has the biggest power in the world to stop any kind of war and help poor people, but he did nothing.

Georgy Prodanov
San Francisco

Supes' sense of justice

Our Board of Supervisors has such a finely tuned sense of justice and such infinite wisdom. The city has a problem with graffiti, so they penalize the property owners who were victimized, not the perpetrators.

There is too much handgun violence, so they make sure that the innocent citizens are unarmed and vulnerable. Now, after making sure that no one can smoke inside, they want to make sure that they cannot smoke outside, in the parks, even though parents in the park must inspect the sandboxes for cast off syringes and condoms before the kids can play.

James Keefer
San Francisco

Misses Friday

What has happened to Wayne Friday's political column? Although the B.A.R. started out as a "bar rag," it has always been a force of political advocacy as the gay movement grew and gained public visibility.

Few gay leaders in the nation have Friday's wide-ranging background and contacts built up over the years.

His roots are in Flint, Michigan – the heart of General Motors where the United Auto Workers literally fought for credibility and decent wages. Then on to New York City, living and working at the dawn of gay rights.

In San Francisco, Friday was a longtime bartender, getting involved as gay businesses and organizations evolved into a common cause. He worked on the district attorney's staff and was appointed to the Police Commission twice.

A personal friend of Harvey Milk, Friday has been on a first-name basis with movers and shakers from Main Street to Wall Street across the political spectrum. Damn few can bring to the table what Friday does.

Is Wayne Friday opinionated? Absolutely. But he is fair. Whatever it takes, please return his column to the B.A.R.

Jim Dewey
San Francisco

[Editor's note: Wayne Friday has decided to retire from the paper. The story is on page 13.]

HIV drugs

◀ previous page

you think you've been exposed to HIV, seek care right away. NPEP must be started within 72 hours of exposure – but preferably as soon as possible – and continued for 28 days. Assuming that adherence is complete, the sooner you get antiretroviral therapy, the better your chances of avoiding HIV infection.

• Knowing your partner's HIV status is key. NPEP is recommended only when the person you had sex with is HIV-positive. But even if you've been exposed to someone whose status you don't know, you should still seek care immediately. You and your doctor can decide whether NPEP is appropriate – given the circumstances of the exposure.

• It's not for everybody. You shouldn't take NPEP if your HIV risk is low or if you seek care more than 72 hours after exposure. In general, men who are frequently or repeatedly exposed to HIV because of unsafe behaviors would require sequential or near-continuous courses of NPEP, which is not recommended. Men at ongoing risk for HIV should instead be referred to intensive risk-reduction interventions which can help them stay HIV-free.

• NPEP is not a replacement for staying safe. NPEP is not a substitute for abstinence, mutual monogamy with an uninfected partner, consistent condom use, or other behaviors that can eliminate or reduce your exposure to HIV in the first place. Providers and patients need to work together to identify HIV risk, work out plans to change behaviors, and access appropriate counseling and services.

In the third decade of the AIDS epidemic, we know that sustaining HIV prevention over the long run requires a combination of approaches – abstinence, mutual monogamy with an uninfected partner, correct and consistent condom use, expanded access to voluntary HIV counseling and testing, risk-reduction counseling for people both HIV negative and positive, and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, diseases that can increase the risk of HIV transmission. NPEP is yet another factor in this life-saving equation. Used correctly and responsibly, NPEP has the potential to become an important strategy in gay men's ongoing struggle to remain HIV-free. ▼

Dr. Ronald O. Valdiserri, MPH, is deputy director of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention.

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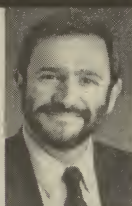
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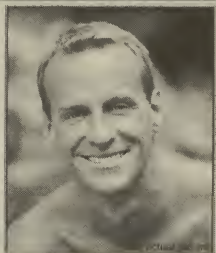
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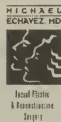
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Puppy love

by Paula Martinac

The other day, a gay editor asked me if I had something special planned for my Valentine's Day column, and I groaned inwardly at the prospect of writing yet another piece on marriage. It's not that I don't support equal marriage rights for same-sex couples; it's just that I've been covering this topic for about eight years — in dozens of installments of this column, always peppered with the words "struggle" and "fight"; in a 300-page nonfiction book; and most recently, in a comic play. Let's say I have a bad case of same-sex marriage burnout — and my partner, Katie, and I still can't get hitched.

On top of that, I don't like Valentine's Day, a holiday our consumer economy created; as far as I can see, it does nothing more than make people feel inadequate. If you're coupled, you'd better come up with some ultra-romantic, super-sexy way to celebrate the Day of Love, or it could mean your relationship is headed south. And if you're single on February 14, well, you might as well kill yourself.

Given my frame of mind this year, I won't be among those engaging in what has become an annual V-Day rite in the LGBT community — going to City Hall to apply for a marriage license. That's one of 18 actions Metropolitan Community Churches suggests in its Valentine's Week "Freedom to Marry Action Kit" (www.mcccchurch.org); if you're single or not interested in marrying, you can also write a letter to the editor, attend a rally, sign a pledge, or have a house party in support of marriage equality.

Looking over MCC's list, I started to think it was time for a new action, something drastic that would really stir the country up — and shake burnouts like me out of their Feb. 14 doldrums. With that

in mind, I'd like to put forward my own idea for a V-Day zap — I call it simply "First Annual Marry Your Pet Day."

Okay, I can't take complete credit for this idea. For years, right-wingers have been warning that if same-sex couples secure the right to marry, there'll be no stopping people from doing all manner of unspeakable things. Why, folks might try to marry their cousins (oops, I forgot — that's legal in 19 states, including Texas) or even their dogs and cats.

Just last spring, Nicholas DiMarzio, Roman Catholic Bishop of Brooklyn, told the press, "Pets really love their masters, and why can't we have a marriage so they could inherit the money?" This past summer

Atlanta Braves pitcher John Smoltz echoed the bishop's "humorous" take on gay marriage: "What's next?" he quipped. "Marrying an animal?"

This kind of aren't-I-clever statement used to make me furious. But I started to take the idea of marrying a pet seriously when a friend of Katie's admitted that he'd marry his dachshund, Mag-nolia, in a minute, "if she'd have me."

Indeed, when I look at Lucy, my Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, I think, "Well, who wouldn't want to marry her?" She's cute as a button, with huge brown eyes; she gives heartfelt, human-style hugs; she'd happily sit on my lap all day, if I let her; and she eats the same food at every meal without complaining. How perfect is that? The only obstacle to our union is fierce competition from other humans, who often approach Lucy with the offer, "Would you like to come home with me?"

So here's my modest proposal — on Valentine's Day this year, gay and straight people alike say "I do"



Christine Smith

with their animals of choice. If tens of thousands of us do it in one day, we'll have an immediate answer to the question on the lips of every right-wing moralist in the country: If marriage is extended beyond the one man-one woman interpretation, won't the Earth be struck and consumed by a giant, God-sent fiery ball?

But how do I marry Spot or Socks, you ask? Luckily, some savvy folks in Holland (where else?) created www.marryyourpet.com, which makes this action doable for all. For a mere \$10, you get a certificate of marriage; for \$35, you also receive a T-shirt that reads "I Married My Pet." Their most elaborate wedding package will set you back only \$200 — a real bargain, considering that the average American man-woman wedding these days costs a whopping \$22,360, according to a recent *Mother Jones* feature.

Best of all, the marryyourpet.com people don't care a plastic cake topper about the gender of you and your pet. "Can I marry a pet of the same sex?" reads one of the site's FAQs. "Your pet's gender is entirely irrelevant," is the enlightened response. "All that matters is that you have love, respect, and, of course, a \$10 fee." ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of eight books and editor in chief of *Q* Syndicate. She can be reached care of this publication or at Lesbian Notions at qsyndicate.com.

SF judge to rule on fire department case

by Matthew S. Bajko

An openly gay man who alleges the city's fire department entrance exam discriminates against gays and alcoholics may be allowed to proceed with a sexual orientation discrimination lawsuit he filed against the city.

Jon Gray, a sheriff's deputy, filed suit last year against the city and fire department alleging that questions on an entrance exam weed out gay applicants. Since taking the firefighter's exam in October 2001, he has fought the department's scoring of his test and has filed numerous complaints with city, state, and federal agencies.

The fire department has defended its testing procedures, saying gay men are welcome to take the exam and several already serve in the city's firehouses. The city



Jon Gray

has tried to dismiss the case, saying Gray filed his lawsuit after his statute of limitations expired.

The city attorney also filed a demurrer in the case, arguing that

the sexual orientation discrimination charges be dropped. The city claims that the original paperwork filed with a state fair employment agency did not include the charges and therefore cannot be included in the lawsuit.

But San Francisco Superior Court Judge James L. Warren indicated during a hearing in the case Friday, February 4 that the charges could be included in the case.

"When I look at this it seems to me the demurrer as currently stated is subject to attack but possibly amendable," said Warren. "It seems to me there very well may be a way for the plaintiff to properly plead around the charge that sexual orientation is not included in there."

Warren gave Gray's attorney, Daniel Ray Bacon, until February 16 to file an amended complaint before he makes a ruling on the demurrer. ▼

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HISTORY LESSON

Were David and Jonathan gay?

by Liz Highleyman

February 1046 B.C. (3,051 years ago this month): Estimated date of the birth of Jonathan, son of King Saul.

In an attempt to reclaim their religion from homophobia, some LGBT people have sought representations of same-sex love in the Bible. One of the most often-cited "gay couples" is David, the Old Testament hero, and Jonathan, son of King Saul.

Some three thousand years ago, at the end of the Bronze Age, David, a young shepherd from Bethlehem, made a name for himself by slaying Goliath, a Philistine giant, with a blow from his slingshot. David initially came to the court of Saul, first king of the Israelites, to perform as a musician, but soon gained recognition as a soldier.

King Saul's son, Jonathan, was several years older than David and a commander in his father's army. Himself known for his prowess in battle, Jonathan took a liking to the young newcomer, and the two became fast friends. "And it came to pass," the Bible says, "that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul" (1 Samuel 18:1).

According to the Bible, God chose David over Saul's son and heir to be the second king of the Israelites. While Jonathan accepted this fate, King Saul berated his son for his relationship with David, accusing him of placing friendship over family loyalty and his future kingdom. Saul also became increasingly jealous of David's growing military success and plotted his demise. In addition, argue some gay commentators such as Andre Gide, Saul was consumed with lust for the handsome young hero.

Jonathan learned of his father's plans and was determined to warn David. Fearful of Saul's wrath, David hid himself in a field near the palace. Jonathan devised a code whereby he would alert David whether he could safely return or should flee. The two men made a covenant, promising that they and their descendants would remain friends forever. Upon parting, "they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded" (1 Samuel 20:41).

Jonathan and Saul eventually died together in battle against the Philistines. Upon hearing the

news, David mourned Jonathan's passing with the lament: "I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women" (II Samuel 1:26).

While the Bible's two books of Samuel provide considerable detail about the friendship between David and Jonathan, they do not reveal whether the two men had a sexual relationship, and the question is debated to this day.

"There can be little doubt, except on the part of those who absolutely refuse to believe it, that there existed a homosexual relationship between Jonathan and David," writes author Tom

Horner, claiming that the ancient Israelites were certainly influenced by the surrounding Mediterranean cultures in which homosexual relations

were common and sexual liaisons between warriors were admired. "One cannot read [the account of their relationship] without discerning that Jonathan was the love of David's life," concurs the Reverend Nancy Wilson, a member of the Metropolitan Community Church Board of Elders. "Centuries of homophobic Biblical interpretations have kept them in the closet too long!"

Some have gone so far as to argue that the covenant between David and Jonathan was equivalent to a marriage. A similar claim has been made about David's ancestor, Ruth, and her mother-in-law, Naomi. Ruth's vow of fidelity – "for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge" (Ruth 1:16) – is used today in both gay commitment ceremonies and heterosexual marriages.

On the other side of the debate, commentators deny that the relationship between David and Jonathan had an erotic component. James Patrick Holding argues that the assumption that the two men were lovers is a product of "jaundiced Western eyes." In that era, he says, declarations of passionate feelings and physical expressions of affection were common between platonic friends. "Put your head on the breast of another man today here in America, and the jokes will fly," he writes. "But in the ancient East, not so; and even today, such affectionate displays are typical on that side of the world."

Regardless of whether David and Jonathan had a sexual relationship, they were not "gay" by



Rembrandt's painting, *David and Jonathan*, 1642.

today's definition. David had eight wives – including one of Jonathan's sisters – and the biblical tale of his adulterous relationship with Bathsheba indicates that he was sexually attracted to women, not simply married out of a sense of obligation or political ambition. Furthermore, the notion of "homosexual," "bisexual," and "heterosexual" individuals did not exist in Old Testament times. "David was not a 'homosexual' because he loved Jonathan, or Jonathan because he loved David," writes Horner. Rather, he says, they were "simply well-rounded men" who acted within the standards of a society that accepted different kinds of sexual behavior.

While it is impossible to know whether David and Jonathan were lovers or simply close comrades, their relationship has proved inspirational to many gay men. And David – whom the Bible describes as being "of a beautiful countenance and goodly to look upon" (1 Samuel 16:12) – has been portrayed as an icon of male beauty in art and literature throughout history. ▼

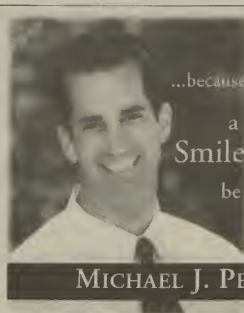
Liz Highleyman is a freelance writer and editor who has written widely on health, sexuality, and politics. She can be reached care of this publication or at PastOut@qsyndicate.com.

Suggested reading

Horner, Tom. 1978. *Jonathan Loved David: Homosexuality in Biblical Times* (Westminster Press)

Hubble, Christopher. 2003. *Lord Given Lovers: The Holy Union of David and Jonathan* (iUniverse).

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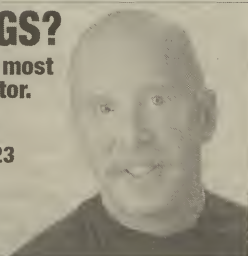
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9/02

Series of robberies
hit the Castro

by Jane Warner

A rash of robberies and burglaries hit the Castro and Upper Market neighborhoods over the past several weeks, some of which may be related to other crimes, and others that resulted in suspect apprehensions, according to police reports.

On February 3, at 8:24 p.m., a man walked into Michael Roberts Haircutters at 4111 19th Street, holding a rifle in one hand and a gas can in the other.

"Give me your loot or I'll burn the place down," the suspect yelled. The salon's barber thought the man was kidding until he started to pour kerosene on the floor. Realizing the suspect was serious, the barber picked up the phone to dial 911.

"Put that down," the suspect screamed, pointing the rifle at the barber's chest.

Fearing for his life, the barber followed the suspect's instructions and watched as the suspect unsuccessfully rummaged through several drawers and cabinets.

Not finding any cash, the suspect — described as a white male, 60-65 years old, 5 feet 6 inches and weighing 130 pounds, wearing a brown baseball cap, a long brown top, and brown pants — fled the store in an unknown direction. Responding police believe this suspect is the same assailant who robbed Sorrento Sun Center on Noe Street last month.

Bank robbed

On February 7 at 4:50 p.m., the Bank of America at 501 Castro Street was also the target of a robbery. According to reports, a man walked up to a teller and calmly told her, "This is a robbery."

"Give me 10s and 20s and no dye pack."

Afraid for her safety, the teller complied with his demands and handed over the money as the suspect completed a deposit slip on the leather brief case he was holding. Leaning closer to the teller, the robber started stuffing the money into pockets. Without brandishing a weapon, the thief ran out of the bank in an unknown direction. The suspect is described as a white male, 35-38

years old, 5 feet 7 inches and weighing 160 pounds. He wore a blue baseball cap with a brown bill, a green jacket with a brown corduroy collar, and blue jeans.

Rooftop escapades

A series of burglaries that hit the neighborhood included two incidents where residents helped in the apprehension of the suspects.

On January 26 at 10:24 p.m., a resident of the 2100 block of Market Street reported coming home from work and encountering a strange man loitering inside his apartment's garage.

A verbal exchange occurred as the resident tried to ascertain the man's identity. Giving only suspicious answers, the prowler turned away, walked up the staircase and out of the complex as the resident followed close behind dialing 911 on his cell phone. The suspect began to run and jumped into a parked cab parked in front of Bagdad Cafe on Market. The resident yelled at the driver not to drive on, that his passenger had just broken into his garage and police were responding. The suspect jumped out of the cab, punched and kicked the resident, then ran across Market Street into a park-

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Alameda County passes
LGBT protections

by Zak Szymanski

Score one more victory for LGBT rights; the Alameda County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, January 25 voted 4-0 to add sexual orientation as well as gender identity and expression to its 15-year-old nondiscrimination policy.

The resolution — championed by transgender activists and allies and sponsored by Board of Supervisors President Keith Carson — states that "all individuals shall have full and equal enjoyment of privileges, benefits, goods, services and facilities consistent with the person's gender identity, and perceived sexual orientation or gen-

der identity."

It also requires that organizations include "gender identity," and "sexual orientation" when posting notices prohibiting discrimination, and directs county agencies and department heads to maintain records of and report sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination on the same basis as they record and report other forms of discrimination.

"This vote is an epiphany for those of us in the community. It is a matter of justice and equity, pure and simple," said Patricia Kevena Fili, who was instrumental, along with fellow transgender advocate Jamison Green, in the resolution's passage.

The policy applies to county employees, county services, and contractors with the county, explained Chris Daley, attorney for the San Francisco-based Transgender Law Center, which helped to draft and pass the legislation.

Separate policies would be required in each city to ensure protections across the East Bay; presently, several such cities have sexual orientation protections, while only Oakland has transgender inclusive protections.

What the Alameda County resolution does, said Daley, is ensure that Assemblyman Mark Leno's (D-San Francisco) gender identity inclusive AB196 is implemented locally, and that county employees and contractors know their obligations under state law to have nondiscriminatory work environments. It also establishes county policy that no one will be discriminated against in the provision of services, "which is not di-

rectly addressed by AB196," said Daley.

Kevena Fili spearheaded the Alameda County effort after working on Oakland's transgender-inclusive nondiscrimination bill, which passed in December 2003. The county policy is the result of several months of work, she said, and began, like her work in Oakland, as transgender advocacy, with groups like TLC and the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California writing statements of support and helping to craft the resolution's gender-inclusive language.

"But as it turned out, the county didn't even have sexual orientation in its policy," she said. "So we went ahead and did it all at once."

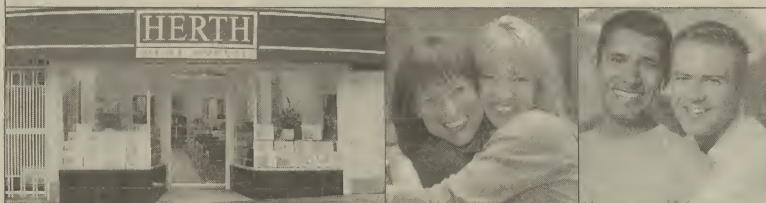
ACLU's associate director Bob Kearney said such gaps are common and are often only discovered during "cleanup efforts" to bring smaller and more local policies in line with current laws.

"Often it takes clearing up of the law to make sure that the coverage is everywhere that it's supposed to be," said Kearney. "That happens constantly; in some Southern states they still are taking laws off the books forbidding interracial marriage even though they are clearly unconstitutional."

Kearney said the Alameda County resolution was one such cleanup effort as it ensures that "there is no question or gray area for people providing services, that this is the law of the land. Even if it's state law, we still need to make sure it's stated explicitly so that everyone understands."

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COMMUNITY NEWS



Architect's rendering of possible renovation project that would combine the Harvey Milk branch library and the GLBT Historical Society.

Library panel votes to revisit historical society project

by Matthew S. Bajko

Supporters of building an LGBT historical museum and research center adjacent to the Castro's branch library have one year to raise nearly \$15 million in order to move forward with their plans.

After hearing testimony at their last two meetings, library commissioners voted Thursday, February 3 to give backers of the project 12 months to flesh out their proposal, including devising architectural plans and securing the necessary funds to build the project. In the meantime, library staff will proceed with renovation plans for the Eureka Valley Harvey Milk Memorial Branch Library on 16th Street between Pond and Prosper.

Before the renovation project is put out to bid in early 2006, the commission said it would readress the project, being pushed by the GLBT Historical Society and District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty.

"I think protecting history is a proper role for a public library. I think it is perfectly appropriate for the library to work as an archive with the historical society," said Commissioner Steven Coulter, who has served on the society's advisory board.

Coulter pointed to the library's Hormel Center, located at the Main Library, which already houses a large collection of LGBT archival material and has a working relationship with the historical society, as precedent for the latest proposal.

"We do that not just with the gay and lesbian community," but with various communities he said. "The Hormel Center has been a wonderful success but it is outgrowing its place here at the Main Library."

Saying Dufty's and the society's original request for a four-month delay in the renovation project did not allow for enough time, Coulter proposed the one-year time frame.

"The drop dead date when we

would go to bid is spring of next year. I propose the Library Commission continue on the path it is on now and design the branch renovation. We have a year to look at this," he said. "If you have raised the money we can reconsider and not go to bid; if you have not raised the money then we go to bid."

Other commissioners also indicated they would welcome seeing the society relocate to the Castro as long as the branch library's autonomy was secure.

"Generally, I am opposed to having a private entity be a part of the library. However, with a condo agreement I can see it," said commission Vice President Carol Steinman. "If the relationship between downstairs and upstairs is clean we can keep it completely separate. Otherwise I can't support it."

Condo agreements have been used at the branch libraries in Glen Park and China Basin, where the library partners with private entities in a joint ownership arrangement, said acting City Librarian Paul Underwood.

The library is also eyeing such partnerships with private entities as it refurbishes branches in the Bayview, North Beach, and Visitation Valley, said Underwood.

"I am hopeful when we go out to bid, all of these issues are finished or the money is raised and there is a definite plan for a museum and research center. If a condo [plan] is workable, we have done that. It is nothing new for us," said Commissioner Helen Marte Bautista.

Dufty said he is pleased with the commission's vote and is hopeful he can secure the necessary funding.

"I am thrilled and daunted at the same time," he said. "I think there is no better time to secure the historical society's long term home and to really create a central cultural and research destination in the Castro."

Last week's vote in no way means the project will ever be

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Noemi Margaret with her target sheet after shooting at the Jackson Arms shooting range.

Guns and gays

◀ page 1

ty to just hand over lightly."

"I don't want to live in a country where the only people who own guns are cops and criminals," said Margaret. "And Republicans."

Margaret, 33, started shooting more than two years ago with her coach Jim Robinson, 44, who is a part of her polyamorous family. She practices at Jackson Arms about once a month, for sport as well as empowerment, she said. And like many LGBT gun owners, she is angered by San Francisco's proposed handgun ban slated for the fall ballot.

If passed by voters, the ban

would make it illegal for private citizens to keep handguns in the city, and would prohibit the sale and distribution of all firearms. Unless Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger calls a special election sooner, November 2005 will be the next time San Franciscans go to the polls.

The measure was placed onto the ballot in December by Supervisors Tom Ammiano, Bevan Dufty, Chris Daly, Matt Gonzalez, and Michela Alioto-Pier and is the result of a joint effort between lawmakers and advocates who wanted to address the growing problem of gun violence, according to Bill Barnes, a former aide to Daly who now serves as the initiative's campaign spokesman. The number of homicides in San Francisco climbed to 88 last year — up from 70 in 2003 — with roughly 60 of those incidents involving guns.

Some LGBT gun owners took issue with an early media statement from Barnes that seemed to characterize the gay community as supportive of the handgun ban because of the 1978 murders of Mayor George Moscone and the first openly gay supervisor, Harvey Milk. Both men were gunned down in City Hall by former supervisor and ex-police officer Dan White.

"I said that, given the murders of Moscone and Milk, the ban of handguns should appeal to certain segments of the LGBT community," Barnes, himself openly gay, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "And that has been the case."

But to paraphrase the messages put forth by gun rights advocates, Milk and Moscone may still be alive today if they had carried firearms of their own, and a handgun ban, said Tom Boyer of the San Francisco chapter of the LGBT gun group Pink Pistols, would only ensure that criminals would have illegal guns while law-abiding citizens would be defenseless.

"Even if there had been a gun ban, Dan White would have found a way to get one," said Boyer, 47, who has been shooting since he was 6 years old. "Criminals are notorious for not obeying the law."

For Margaret, the right to bear arms certainly has roots in self-defense — "It equalizes the playing field. I like the idea of criminals not knowing who is armed; that works to my advantage" — but it also speaks to her feminism, and larger political views.

Growing up as a girl meant she had fewer athletic opportunities, but "It's easy to go from knowing nothing about guns to getting very good at them. I like getting

better at something," she said.

Margaret also likes to reference data that shows "95 percent of the candidates that the National Rifle Association supported went onto victory in the last election," which to her means many pro-gay candidates who feel they can't be both liberal and for guns are "taking the power of guns and handing that power to the right. I don't want the right to have that power. I want that power for the left."

Boyer agrees.

"The Democratic Party's insistence on gun bans is hurting a progressive political agenda," he said.

Boyer pointed to former President Clinton's new book that attributes the Republican takeover of Congress in 1994 to his support of an assault weapons ban. Similarly, said Boyer, the defeat of Texas Governor Ann Richards is linked to her opposition of gun permits. Had Richards not lost, George W. Bush may not be president, because he would not have been governor, said Boyer.

"In the middle of the country, when people are faced with a candidate who is pro-gay but anti-gun, they are going to vote for the politician who is not going to disarm them," said Boyer.

But Barnes framed such arguments as a bit too simplistic to hold much weight.

"From gay marriage to affirmative action, there have always been those who say there's one issue where the left generally loses," said Barnes. "I'm curious about it because that 'one issue' continues to change. And fundamentally, these issues are about a much broader conversation we need to be having in this country. Another way to look at it is that families who lost people to gun violence in areas where voter turnout is low are more likely to go out and vote when a gun measure is on the ballot, which generally helps progressive slates."

There is not enough data to determine whether any number of gun policies — from handgun bans, to concealed weapons permits — are effective, according to a recent study by the National Academy of Sciences.

Data that is available is often complex and contextual, and Barnes refutes gun advocates' claims that violent crime in Washington, D.C. grew as a result of that city's handgun ban.

"The percentage of murders there with handguns is relatively low and Washington, D.C. is also adjacent to Virginia, which has virtually no gun laws. And of course there are different issues

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Wayne Friday retires B.A.R. political column

by Cynthia Laird

The Bay Area Reporter's Our Man Friday column is no more. Longtime B.A.R. political editor Wayne Friday has decided to retire, meaning the paper is losing one of its longest running columnists.

Friday made the decision Monday, February 7. His last column ran December 30, 2004. In it, he concluded by thanking "all my friends, readers, and those dear to them — a happy, healthy, prosperous 2005 ... and, thanks very much for everything."

Following that column, Friday asked for and received a month off. He toyed with the idea of resuming his column, but decided against it.

This week, Friday, 68, said he was getting older and wanted to enjoy retirement. Friday had previously worked as an investigator for the district attorney's office and retired from that position several years ago.

"To allay any rumors or possible misconceptions, I'd just like to thank my readers of nearly 30 years, the thousands of friends I have made since taking the Bay Area Reporter political column from Harvey Milk in 1975, and explain that as one gets older, which I have become, it is time to retire the column, enjoy traveling a bit more, and see more theater, and, possibly, more baseball games," said Friday, a longtime Giants fan.

Thomas E. Horn, publisher of the B.A.R., called Friday "the Herb Caen of the gay community," a sentiment also expressed by local political leaders.

"We will miss his wit, his candor, and his always sharp analysis," Horn said.

"I think it's too bad, he's sort of like our own Herb Caen," state Senator Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) told the B.A.R. "He's very nimble and widely read. His was a column of juicy tidbits and bold opinions."

Migden noted that she was sometimes in Friday's crosshairs. "I have great affection for him," she said. "Sometimes I felt im-



Political editor Wayne Friday

paled by him, but it's the mark of a person because it never pierced my affections for him."

Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) said the community owes Friday "a huge collective thanks" for his work.

"Wayne's love and devotion to our community has been expressed for nearly three decades every week in his column," Leno said Tuesday. "There's only one Wayne Friday. He's informed, opinionated, sometimes acerbic, sometimes golden-hearted, and always readable."

District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty credited Friday with helping his campaign in 2002. Dufty initially did not receive the endorsement of the paper, but Friday, breaking with then-publisher Bob Ross, endorsed him. Dufty was endorsed by the paper in the runoff election.

"He had a monumental impact on my candidacy," Dufty said, "and his articulation of me as a candidate opened people's eyes to me and caused them to take a second look at my candidacy."

Dufty said that Friday was like "Mt. Rushmore on the political landscape."

"I think he made San Francisco politicians more accountable to the community, because you knew Wayne was watching," Dufty said.

City Attorney Dennis Herrera called Friday's retirement a "heartbreaking loss for political junkies — gay and straight alike — throughout San Francisco."

"Week after week, for nearly three decades, Wayne's column has uniquely combined shrewd analysis, colorful gossip, and the passion of someone who cares deeply about his community and his city," Herrera said. "I wish Wayne well on his retirement, but I hope he tires of it quickly."

District Attorney Kamala Harris also praised Friday's contributions. "Chronicling the rise of the LGBT community's political empowerment, he has lent insight and an important local perspective to the critical political battles of our time," Harris said. "I have enjoyed his astute observations and I'm fortunate to call Wayne Friday a friend."

"Wayne Friday has informed the LGBT community through the bad times, the good times, and of course, the great times — the times our community thought would never come but will always remember," Caruso said. "Always entertaining, honest, and steadfast in the truth about political happenings, his written word will be missed but his dedication and hard work on behalf of the LGBT community will continue to enrich the lives of many."

Friday said that he's proud to have contributed to the growth of the local gay press. The B.A.R. started publishing in 1971; Friday joined the staff a few years later.

"It's been a long time," he said.

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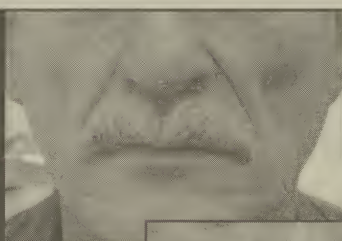
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The popular Blue Chairs gay beach in Puerto Vallarta.

Puerto Vallarta: SF south of the border

by Ed Walsh

Puerto Vallarta has been called the San Francisco of Mexico. You may get some argument over that but it would be difficult to overstate the close ties between the two cities.

I arrived in Vallarta, as locals

call it, late on a recent Monday afternoon. After checking into the Hotel Mercurio, I headed for the famous Blue Chairs gay beach, just a short walk away. I plopped myself down on an empty chair near the surf and asked a man sitting nearby if he would keep an eye on my stuff while I went in the water. He turned out to be a San Franciscan, Ben Schatz, who was in town performing with the Kinsey Sicks at the Palm nightclub. Schatz is also a part-time Vallarta resident.

After a refreshing swim, I went to the rooftop patio/bar at the adjacent Blue Chairs Resort Hotel to take a picture of the sunset. A group of men from one of the hotel's balconies gestured me to come over for a better picture.

"Hey, you fell for that," they laughed as I ventured over to take them up on the offer.

It turns out the group was from the Russian River. I knew one of them and got a great pic-

ture of myself in my shockingly pale skin in the Mexican sunset.

The next night, I arrived back at the hotel to find the desk clerk, Alex Lopez, reading the *Bay Area Reporter*. He explained that a regular hotel guest brings him copies. During my four-night stay, I met four other people from the Bay Area who happened to be staying in the same hotel. At a Kinsey Sicks performance, I met two more San Franciscans, including Jeff Green, one of the owners of the Twin Peaks bar.

Vallarta boasts 17 gay bars and nightclubs and at least 14 gay friendly hotels and bed and breakfasts. In the late 1980s, there were only two gay bars, Club Paco Paco and Balcones. Paco's owner, Paco Ruiz, helped pave the way for other gay business owners by defiantly staging a one-man rebellion. He stood up to police and refused to give them bribes. He took his fight to City Hall and eventually

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The rooftop pool is a featured attraction at the Blue Chairs Resort.

NATIONAL NEWS

NY judge orders gay marriage

by Bob Roehr

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced Saturday, February 5 that the city would appeal the historic ruling striking down the state's marriage laws. A trial judge in Manhattan ruled Friday that New York's marriage statutes discriminate against same-sex couples in violation of that state's constitution. Judge Doris Ling-Cohan declared that the words husband, wife, groom, and bride, as they appear in the relevant sections, "shall be construed to mean spouse...[and] apply equally to either men or women."

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund brought the case in March 2004 on behalf of five New York City couples who had sought and been denied marriage licenses. The judge's February 4 ruling is stayed for 30 days to allow for the city's appeal.

Ling-Cohan's 62-page decision was at times lyrical; replete with legal citations; and laid out in lucid, readable, and personal terms why there could be no other outcome. Her decision began:

"From the literary references of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, to the anti-miscegenation laws of this country's recent past barring interracial marriage, the freedom to choose whom to marry has consistently been the subject of public outcry and controversy. In fact, ironically, the parents of one of the plaintiffs were, themselves, barred from marrying each other by an anti-miscegenation law that made it illegal for interracial couples to marry."

Plaintiff Curtis Woolbright's parents were from Texas where state law had prohibited them from marrying because one was black and the other white. So they moved to California to tie the knot and raise a family, as Karen Woolbright attested in her statement and Ling-Cohan cited in her opinion.

The decision went on to say, "The challenges to laws banning whites and non-whites from marriage demonstrates that the fundamental right to marry the person of one's choice may not be denied based on longstanding and deeply held traditional beliefs about appropriate marital partners."

Ling-Cohan noted, "As other states have also observed, the right to marry is not a privilege conferred by the state, but a fundamental right that is protected from unwarranted state interference. ... It is a fundamental right of free men."

"...Because the exclusion of same-sex couples from eligibility for civil marriage infringes the fundamental right to choose one's spouse, such exclusion may be sustained only if it serves a compelling state interest," the judge wrote.

Backing her opinion up with case law citations she wrote: "It is clear that moral disapproval of same-sex couples or of individual homosexuals is not a legitimate state purpose or a rational reason for depriving plaintiffs of their right to choose their spouse."

The state's second argument in denying marriage to gays was the need for uniformity with other states. The judge said, "It would be a grave disservice to residents of New York [to deny its citizens rights] simply because those rights may not be acknowledged elsewhere."



New York state Senator Tom Duane and New York City Council members held a press conference February 5 on the steps of City Hall denouncing Mayor Michael Bloomberg's decision to appeal the marriage ruling.

"History demonstrates that marriage is not a stagnant institution. ... There clearly has been a

steady evolution in the institution of marriage throughout history," Ling-Cohan said in reviewing

how women have changed from chattel of their husbands – at one point a husband could not be

charged with raping his wife – to equals. The most recent significant change in marriage has been no-fault divorce.

More positively she wrote, "Recognition that the right to choice in marriage applies to all people, including gays and lesbians, is consistent not only with the changing definition and purpose of marriage, but also with New York's evolving history of respect for, and protection of, same-sex relationships" as demonstrated by actions taken by the state's courts, legislature, executive branch, and local governments.

The decision currently applies only to New York City. In announcing the city's decision to appeal the ruling, Bloomberg told reporters Saturday that the city would try "to expedite the appeal directly to the highest court" – the state's Court of Appeals – "so that people will have a right once and for all to know where they stand," according to the *New York Times*. Bloomberg, a Republican, also said he personally favored gay marriage, the paper reported, and

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Bush budget flatlines AIDS

by Bob Roehr

The \$2.57 trillion budget unveiled Monday, February 7 by President Bush for fiscal year 2006 proposes an increase of \$300 million for international AIDS programs and virtually no increase in domestic spending on HIV/AIDS.

AIDS services funded under the Ryan White CARE Act will receive no increase, except for an additional \$10 million for AIDS Drug Assistance Programs. That is half the amount the administration threw into an emergency effort last summer during the presidential campaign to meet then current shortfalls in ADAP programs.

AIDS research at the National Institutes of Health will increase 0.4 percent, significantly less than the cost of living. Those research activities continue to shift into the elusive quest for an AIDS vaccine, with much of that going to build up research infrastructure in Africa.

AIDS prevention programs funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will actually lose money, some \$4 million compared with this year. It is part of an overall reduction of 9 percent, or \$6.9 billion at the CDC. However, the administration did find an additional \$38 million for abstinence-only sex education programs run out of the Department of Education.

Despite all of the talk about

cuts, the proposed budget is about a third bigger than the one four years ago when Bush took office. The increased spending is going to Iraq; the cuts are coming from domestic programs.

The *Washington Post* in a February 8 editorial called the overall budget "breath-taking," both as "farce" and "tragedy" in trying to cut the overall budget deficit in half by 2009, without reimposing tax cuts passed early in the administration.

"The president's budget proposals, if enacted, will threaten the health care safety net for HIV care and treatment, and undercut prevention and research efforts," said Dr. Paul Volberding, chairman of the board of the HIV Medicine Association.

"This budget does not reflect the concern President Bush showed during his State of the Union address for HIV and AIDS prevention and care," said David Smith, vice president of policy at the Human Rights Campaign. "Unfortunately, the president's actions do not match his words."

"Programs that focus on abstinence as the sole means of preventing HIV/AIDS put our young people at tremendous risk," Smith said. "We have to question [the president's] commitment when his ideology consistently outweighs sound scientific facts."

"The president focused on African Americans and AIDS in his State of the Union address," said Paul Feldman, spokesman for the National Association of Peo-

ple With AIDS, "and yet it has not one new dollar for the Minority AIDS Initiative."

For the second straight year there is a significant cut in housing support for people living with HIV. "This is not a response to AIDS," Feldman added.

"There really has been no new money for five years," said Marsha Martin, executive director of AIDS Action. During that time an additional 200,000 Americans are estimated to have become infected with HIV. "Maybe within the context of reauthorization of Ryan White we can put forward the case to the Congress, with the challenge to increase the support necessary to meet those demands."

Most Washington observers see the president's proposal as just the opening round of the budgetary process, with Congress generally shifting and adding funding. However, the spending pressures of Iraq, combined with a reticence to raise taxes, even while the deficit grows, makes that game even more difficult to play this year than in the past.

"For HIV, it has never made a difference what the competing needs were," Martin said, adding that advocates have always been able to demonstrate how those programs have contributed to the overall public health. "What has changed is that veterans, families with vulnerable children, the rest of America, are now going to have to compete for its share of scarce resources, when in the past it was assumed." ▼

Bush

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spokesman Steven Fisher

"Sadly, once again, he valued the extremism of a few over the greater good of protecting all Americans, including GLBT families," Fisher added.

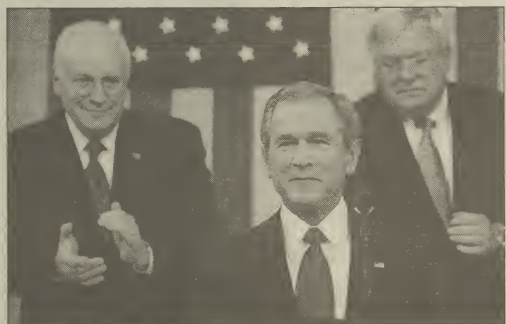
National Stonewall Democrats Executive Director Dave Noble was even harsher. "President Bush's support for this amendment is the only immoral action mentioned in his speech that threatens the stability of American families."

Noble said Bush's earlier remarks in favor of such an amendment stoked antigay referendums in 13 states last year. "History will severely judge any president who casually calls for such a radical rewriting of our Constitution without thought of the consequences."

"Separate has never meant equal for African Americans and the same holds true for millions of gay and lesbian couples in America," said Jasmyne Cannick, a member of the board of the National Black Justice Coalition. She called for the same opportunities to participate within society "regardless of race, gender-identity, or sexual orientation."

Log Cabin Republicans Executive Director Patrick Guerriero urged the president and Congress "to focus on expanding freedom and liberty for all Americans" and not push the MPA. In doing so, they "can improve the lives of all Americans, including gay and lesbian Americans."

David Corn, a columnist for the liberal magazine *The Nation*, wrote, "While Bush referred to the 'culture of life' and decried activist judges,



President Bush delivering his State of the Union address last week.

he said nothing directly about abortion. Can we then presume he believes gay marriage is a more urgent matter than a practice his supporters compare to mass murder?"

AIDS

"Because HIV/AIDS brings suffering into so many lives, I ask you to reauthorize the Ryan White Act to encourage prevention and provide care and treatment to the victims of that disease," Bush said during his speech. "And as we update this important law, we must focus our efforts on fellow citizens with the highest rates of new cases: African American men and women."

No one will deny that resources have to be flexible in addressing the shifting populations and locations of the epidemic. But framing reauthorization in terms of "rates of new cases" downplays the fact that services must be delivered not just to new cases but also to the cumulative caseload of those living with HIV. And that remains predominately gay males.

"The president is on the right

path," said Marsha Martin, executive director of AIDS Action, in praising his leadership on domestic AIDS issues. The organization forwarded a list of nine principles that it sees as a basis for shaping discussions around reauthorization of Ryan White.

"It's welcome for the president to acknowledge the importance of the Ryan White CARE Act and to acknowledge the huge impact on African Americans," said Paul Feldman for the National Association of People With AIDS.

"Now we call upon the president to turn his words into reality. The Bush administration has essentially flat funded the domestic AIDS portfolio for the entirety of the first term. We remain hopeful that the budget will support increased funding," Feldman added.

NBJC's Alexander Robinson, a member of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS during the Clinton administration, noted that the Bush administration's support for "unproven ab-

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Groups join together to press reauthorizing of the CARE Act

by Matthew S. Bajko

Banding together to ensure they have a united voice, nearly 50 local, regional, and national organizations working on HIV/AIDS issues are coordinating efforts to ensure Congress reauthorizes the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act this fall.

"We are all on the same page at this point. It is little bit of a change from years past," said San Francisco CARE Council co-chair Randy Allgaier, who also represents the council on the Communities Advocating for Emergency AIDS Relief (CAEAR) Council. "Reauthorization has been bruising in past cases. This year it will be easier, not necessarily easier politically, because we have some challenges with the Bush administration. But we all realize in order to deal well with the Bush administration we have to be on the same page — quickly and early."

The CARE Act programs have worked with cities, states, and local community-based organizations to provide services annually to approximately 533,000 HIV-positive individuals who do not have sufficient health care coverage or financial resources to treat their HIV disease. Initially passed in 1990, reauthorized in 1996 and again in 2000, the CARE Act has always enjoyed wide bipartisan support from Congress and the administration.

The CARE Act is a payer of last resort, designed to address the gaps left by Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance, and other publicly financed health care systems. It remains an essential part of the country's response to the domestic HIV/AIDS epidemic and unless reauthorized, is set to expire on September 30. It is expected to be reauthorized this year, but the final language of the act is still being written and debated in Congress.

"I think one of the things people should understand is this is maybe the worst environment we have ever faced for discretionary spending on federal programs," said Ernest Hopkins, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's director of federal affairs. "The Republicans seem to be trying to brace the larger community for a



CARE Council co-chair Randy Allgaier

series of proposals that would effectively cut dramatically the level of healthcare access available, both through Medicare and Medicaid and these entitlement programs. The CARE Act program has been cut back now two years in a row. Prior to that it was flat funded."

While AIDS agencies are pleased that President Bush announced his support for reauthorization of the CARE Act in his State of the Union address, they have already raised concerns about the president's proposal to flat fund the program this year. And Democrats, along with AIDS advocates, are watching closely what changes Republican lawmakers may propose to make within the legislation.

"Many people would not be able to access medical care and lifesaving AIDS drugs through the Ryan White CARE Act without the case management, transportation, nutrition, and other critical support services the CARE Act provides," said House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco). "San Francisco has always recognized the need to provide a safety net for people living with HIV and AIDS, and is an effective model for the nation. Democrats will continue to fight any right-wing member of Congress' effort to undermine critical HIV/AIDS services and will continue to push for responsible budgets that better serve people living with or at-risk for HIV and AIDS."

Concerns

Of key concern to San Francis-

co health officials is what changes are made to the act's funding formulas. Under the current act, San Francisco has seen its funding decline the last few years due to how federal officials appropriate CARE Act dollars.

"The issues I am hearing this time are regarding the formula. It will definitely be rewritten, we assume," said Steven Tierney, the health department's director of HIV prevention, who has been working on reauthorization issues for the last year and a half.

Originally San Francisco benefited from how CARE Act dollars were dispersed. Due to the city's small size, it was adversely impacted by the number of AIDS cases it treated compared to other cities. But then the formula was changed, and San Francisco's piece of the funding pie has shrunk ever since.

"When the formula was changed it undermined places like San Francisco, which had highly dense AIDS populations. Our funding level has been viewed as being out of sync via the other Title 1 cities," said Hopkins. "We had a protection period or hold harmless provision inside the bill that has reduced funding to San

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Bush

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stinence-only programs" and prevention initiatives targeted "primarily to individuals who are already infected" has led to significant reductions in federal funding for prevention programs for black gay and bisexual men.

"We hope the president will direct his new Secretary of Health and Human Services to follow the science and support the full scope of HIV prevention and education efforts."

While they are loathe to discuss it on the record, there is a growing fear among many AIDS advocates that the Bush administration's focus on HIV within the black community is driven more by po-

litical outreach than a real concern with the epidemic.

His focus also dovetails with what some saw as efforts during his first term to defund AIDS groups whose messages were different from those preferred by the administration. The most vocal and effective parts of the AIDS advocacy community historically have served a predominately gay white male constituency.

Others noted the complete absence of any mention of the president's international AIDS initiative that is set to spend \$15 billion over five years. Reports are that the program will receive a substantial increase in funding in the budget.

There have been no reports of similar increases in spending for domestic AIDS programs. ▼

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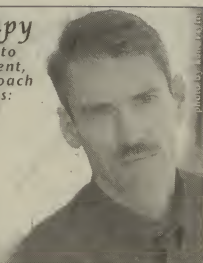
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Local leaders slam Bush budget

by Kevin Davis

Bay Area AIDS activists expressed disappointment that President Bush's proposed fiscal year 2006 health care budget cuts released Monday, February 7 contrasted greatly with commitments he made in his State of the Union address last week.

His budget would cut \$4 million in funding to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; cut \$13.7 million in funds for PWA housing on top of the \$13 million cut last year, bringing the program to \$268 million; and would make severe cutbacks to Medicaid.

Bush's budget flat funds almost all Ryan White CARE Act programs and the Minority AIDS Initiative, (begun in 1998 by the Clinton administration in collaboration with the Congressional Black Caucus), which Bush's address appeared to reference when he said, in calling for reauthorization of the CARE Act, "And as we update this important law, we must focus our efforts on fellow citizens with the highest rates of new cases, African American men and women."

A \$10 million funding spike for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program is in reality far short of the amount needed to maintain existing client access to critical HIV prescriptions, advocates said. Since his first election, American PWAs have increased by 100,000, but health care and support services funds have not.

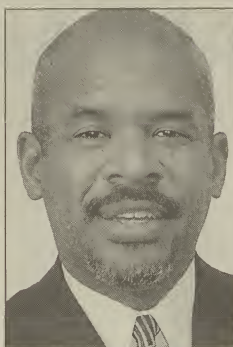
"Ten million is nothing in light of what that requires," said Ernest Hopkins, San Francisco AIDS Foundation director of federal affairs.

"If it's anything close to that bottom line it's a horribly inadequate increase," said Ryan Clary, a senior policy advocate with Project Inform. "We need something like a \$250 million increase."

"Leadership comes in funding, not in words," added Clary. "So, the president has not shown leadership on the CARE Act."

Reauthorization of the five-year bill, the third following its 1990 passage into law, is apparently not in question, as the CARE Act has strong bipartisan Congressional support.

"The budget does not reflect



BCA's Perry Lang

his rhetoric," said Hopkins. "If we're talking about being responsive to the African American community at risk for HIV, that's the last thing you would do. It's just another example of saying the right things to the American people - he is compassionate - and then after his speech is over, his actions demonstrate the true nature of his policy, which is to target and decimate the poor and underserved."

The AIDS foundation, in a prepared statement, expressed "deep disappointment" in Bush's budget proposal.

African Americans are 12.3 percent of the population but account for 40 percent of AIDS cases since the epidemic began. From 2000-2003, the seroconversion rate of black women was 19 times that of white women and exceeded rates for all men of any race.

Leaders of local AIDS organizations focusing on African Americans offered mix reactions to the president's comments.

"Needless to say I'm pleased the president is verbally reaching out and talking about issues of importance to the black community," said Perry Lang, executive director of the Black Coalition on AIDS, which for 20 years has provided African Americans with case management, needle exchange, street outreach, youth and transgender services, treatment education, and HIV testing.

BCA receives no CARE funding except through its collaboration with Shanti, and is instead supported by city contracts, the CDC, and other prevention dollars.

Lang stated the need to address cultural issues that contribute to risky behavior among African Americans, but found language used in the health department's new "Homoboy" campaign denigrates women, calling it "disturbing," while admitting the ads might appeal to younger men.

"I'm not sure how effective that will be at moving consciousness, by using negative reinforcements to change behavior," said Lang.

He advocated a holistic approach.

"I think we need consistent messages that build on each other. Recreational sex requires condoms and love requires an HIV test. It's philosophically one thing to kick it for one night, another to develop a wholesome relationship, to be mindful that if you're talking about long-term commitment, be honest, share information about your status."

Author and activist Keith Boykin suggests radical ideas to curb the spread of HIV in the African American community in his book *Beyond the Down Low*, which explores the term used by black men who don't identify as gay but who have sex with men.

He fears that the down low has demonized bisexuality and portrayed black men as diseased, sexually undesirable predators, "distastefully based on a myth as the cause of AIDS," he said. "The way the discussion is framed is destructive - repetitive, useless media hype about one phenomenon to explain the issue."

He suggests condom distribution among the incarcerated and developing non-judgmental safe-sex church ministries with peer support groups.

"We have to go outside of our comfort zone and not deny the reality of what's going on," he said. "If we're fierce about saving lives, we need more than old-fashioned preaching."

Boykin differs with Bush's focus on abstinence-only programs and instead encourages broader, more expansive definitions of family diversity to relieve the pressure on men to conform to constrictive family norms resulting in lying to one's partner. Otherwise he fears the result is "unhealthy relationships that are deceitful for the purpose of creating a façade - a sham relationship." ▼

Library

◀ page 11

built. A vocal group of nearby residents and users of the Castro branch library have voiced opposition to the project. One woman said she feared by allowing private ventures to team up with the libraries, "it would Balkanize the library system." She suggested the historical society look at other properties in the area.

"If it can be done privately that would be a boon, but I just don't see mixing private and public together," said the woman.

Peter Young, who lives in the building behind the library on Prosper, said he has concerns about an expanded library blocking his views and the impact of a prolonged construction process on the health of his partner, who is dying of AIDS.

"Prosper is not the place for it.

My partner has AIDS and the noise and construction could be debilitating to his possible last two years of life," he said.

Another opponent, Edith Willen, added, "The neighbors are opposed to this venture. They are afraid of losing their neighborhood library."

The historical society, now housed on the third floor of a building on Mission Street near Yerba Buena Gardens, has long dreamed of building its own stand-alone museum and research center. Its Web site shows a rendering of such a building totaling 20,000 square feet. Terence Kissack, executive director of the historical society, acknowledged that that concept has caused some confusion about the branch library site.

"It is not true that the historical society is hatching a plot to take over the entire building," he said.

Several concepts are under consideration, one of which would expand the footprint of the current library building to 10,000 square feet and add a second story of the same size for the museum and research center. A rendering released by Dufty's office this week, done by Los Angeles architect Vaughan Davies, depicts a two-story glass walled annex for the historical society situated on the library's current parking lot.

"I think it is a really compelling project that will appeal to a number of different funding sources and it meets the needs of a pretty broad number of constituents. You have the library users, people who see the value of a research center, you've got the folks who want to have a new destination place within the Castro. It is a real unique opportunity," said Kissack. "I think it is compelling and that we will be able to raise the money." ▼

Filmmaker

◀ page 1

have to do something about it," Newsom says in the film.

Kendell says in the film that Newsom's chief of staff, Steve Kawa, called her Friday, February 6 to inform her of the mayor's intention to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

"I was staggered and stunned," remembers Kendell, who then spent the weekend calling national gay rights leaders. By Sunday afternoon, she said it was apparent that not only would the mayor proceed with his plan, but that "it was the right thing to do."

By Wednesday, February 11, Lyon and Martin had agreed to be the first couple to exchange vows. The mayor's staff attempted to put a media blackout until noon the next day for fear their plan would be halted.

As Newstat recounts in the film, "We didn't want someone to stop it with a restraining order."

Ultimately, the state Supreme Court would put a halt to the marriages on March 11. The city in turn filed suit in San Francisco Superior Court March 12 to have the state's marriage laws ruled unconstitutional, and a decision in the case is expected by this April.

For Chasnoff, who won an Oscar for her 1991 film *Deadly Deception - General Electric, Nuclear Weapons and Our Environment*, *One Wedding* is the fastest film she has ever made. The film only cost \$10,000 to produce and premiered at last year's San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival.

"With other films it has taken me years to make them. Here we said let's pull this together really fast so we can show it to people. The footage speaks for itself," said Chasnoff.

In being a "fly on the wall" that day in City Hall, Chasnoff said she is able to show that gays and lesbians are not the only ones who can play a key role in the fight for gay rights.

"The film really showcases how heterosexual allies can show real leadership on this issue," she said. "Newsom's defiance of conventional political wisdom and his rationale for doing this is very inspiring to people."

Chasnoff's film will be screened as part of the program "Gay Marriage: State of the Heart" at 2 p.m. at the San Francisco Main Library's Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin Street. It will be followed by a panel discussion with the director; Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco); author Betty Berzon; and representatives from



One year ago: Assemblyman Mark Leno marries Ron Regina, left, and Bart Broome at City Hall.

the Freedom to Marry Coalition.

Another documentary about the decision making process leading up to the weddings will be screened during a private reception Newsom and his staff are hosting Saturday morning for the couples who married last year. Geoff Callen, Newsom's brother-in-law, had access to mayoral staff meetings and was given an all-access pass to film Rosie O'Donnell's wedding to her partner, Kelli Carpenter. A 10-minute segment of the film, *Rush to the Altar*, will be shown during the party, to be held in City Hall's Rotunda.

Nearly 1,000 couples are expected to attend the invitation-only event, which begins at 10 a.m. and will include a speech by Newsom. Volunteers are needed to help staff the event, and anyone interested should report to the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services at 2:45 p.m. Friday, February 11 for training.

The February episode of the locally produced *OutSpoken* television show will also feature Chasnoff, excerpts of her film, and appearances by Lyon and Martin,

Teng, and Kendell among other guests. The show debuts at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 22 on Comcast cable Channel 11, with repeats at 8:30 p.m. February 23, 7 p.m. February 26 and 8 p.m. February 28. ▼

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Alameda

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Kearney said that it was particularly important to reiterate AB196 at local levels, given the amount of discrimination faced by transgender individuals.

"One out of five transgender persons in San Francisco reported harassment while trying to access services, and that's in San Francisco," said Kearney, referencing a study done by TLC and the National Center for Lesbian Rights. "It's important that a statement is made at the local levels because of people's perceptions and biases, and because people trying to access services are still experiencing discrimination, even with the law in place."

Kevena Fili agreed.

"I heard from a lot of people that we didn't need this resolution because we have AB196. But we need it for a variety of reasons: to

educate our local legislators, to let people know that the law is around, and to cover any gap that isn't necessarily covered by state legislation," she said.

Proof of that need may be in the fact that despite state law, there managed to be some controversy around the resolution's passage, said Kevena Fili, mostly in the form of mass e-mails and phone calls in opposition. Educational meetings with the supervisors were helpful, she said, as was support from Leno, state Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata (D-Oakland), and Carson. Kevena Fili also credited the LGBT community for rallying support and attending the hearing.

Next on the agenda, said the advocates involved, is training county department representatives, addressing county health services policies, and getting transgender-inclusive policies passed in other Alameda County cities. ▼

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ST AIDS PROJECT

Gay radio show to host a special call-in program tonight

by Tyson Gillfillan

Marilyn Pittman has something to get off her chest, and expects Bay Area radio listeners do, too. This nationally-recognized lesbian comic and self-identified "ranter" is planning to heat up the airwaves tonight (Thursday, February 10), railing against gay marriage and gay male "whores" as she hosts a live call-in edition of San Francisco's gay talk radio program "Out in the Bay."

In celebration and disparagement of the one-year anniversary of gay weddings in San Francisco, Pittman and co-host Eric Jansen will invite listeners to weigh in on the state of gay relationships in modern life.

"Personally, I'm looking to go off on the whole irony surrounding celebrating the anniversary of gay weddings while [Mayor] Gavin Newsom's in the middle of getting divorced," said Pittman. "And Eric and I want listeners to call in and take part in the dialogue — with their attitudes, opinions, and questions."

The pair plans to tackle issues including civil rights, comparing straight with gay partnerships, and stereotypes such as "lesbian bed-death" and "gay male promiscuity." "Marilyn can get pretty provocative," said Jansen. "I may have to rein her in a little — this is a public radio station."

In order to accommodate live callers, the special broadcast of Out in the Bay will expand to a half-hour from its normal 15-

minute time slot. Given the amount and quality of response, the producers may consider making the change permanent.

"When I first had the idea three or four years ago, I was aiming for a live call-in show," said Jansen. "Only running for 15 minutes makes it difficult to have a huge impact."

Producers hope that the call-in format will help create a dialogue between the show's hosts, guests, and the audience. After a recent episode they received angry feedback from a listener who was outraged that PFLAG President Sam Thoron was asked to compare gay and racial civil rights movements.

"Listening to the tape," countered Jansen, "that question was neither asked nor answered ... no doubt comparisons can be

volatile, but I think different oppressed groups can learn from each other." Jansen hopes that in the midst of ranting, informing, and entertaining, the show can help break down such ideological barriers and provide a springboard for continued frank discussions among gay and straight listeners alike.

Since its debut last October, Out in the Bay has presented a wealth of gay-themed topics to Bay Area listeners. According to Jansen, the station averages 7,400 listeners every quarter-hour, and boasts an audience of 134,000 throughout the week.

Said Pittman, "It's tragic we've not had a good gay radio show in San Francisco before this, but the great part is we finally do. It is one thing to read about gay people, the



"Out in the Bay" commentator Marilyn Pittman

movement and the community — but it's an entirely different experience to hear our voices and stories on the radio." ▼

Out in the Bay airs Thursdays at 7:45 p.m. on KALW 91.7 FM, and streams online at KALW.org. The February 10 special edition begins at 7:30 p.m.

House supports DADT resolution

by Bob Roehr

The U.S. House of Representatives indirectly reaffirmed its support of the antigay military policy known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" in a vote on February 2.

The "Sense of Congress" resolution, which passed 327 to 84 and has no binding legal power, goes on record as opposing a November ruling by a federal circuit court in Philadelphia that struck down the so-called Solomon Amendment as unconstitutional. The House's resolution urged an appeal to the Supreme Court.

The background to this convoluted story is that most of the nation's law schools have denied access to military recruiters because

DADT violates their policies of nondiscrimination. The Solomon Amendment forced the law schools to help military recruiters or lose access to all government funded programs, including student loans.

A coalition of law schools sued to block the law, and the appeals court agreed with its arguments. The majority opinion read in part, "The law schools believe that employment discrimination is inconsistent with their commitment to justice and fairness" and should not be compelled to accept military recruiters.

A group of conservative Republicans in the House proposed last week's resolution and it breezed through. No Republicans voted against it, and even Democrats supported it by a margin of

104 to 83.

"The military certainly has the right — and the responsibility — to recruit the best and brightest, but the best and brightest includes lesbian, gay, and bisexual students, too," said Sharra E. Greer, director of law and policy for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

"That's exactly why it should abandon 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.' If Congress were truly concerned about national security, it would focus its attention on the talents of the nearly 10,000 lesbian, gay, and bisexual service members who have been fired because of sexual orientation," Greer added. "It is the military's ban, and not the Third Circuit's decision, that is contrary to our national security interests."

Those concerns were underscored in an interview published



SLDN's Sharra E. Greer

on February 3 by the American Forces Press Service in which Gal

McGinn, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, stressed the need to recruit soldiers who speak Arabic. The Pentagon has discharged numerous Arabic-speaking linguists for being gay.

Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign, said the Solomon Amendment "gives special permission to the military to discriminate when private sector recruiters cannot. The real employment issue in the military has to do with retention, not recruiting. One solution is to allow gay, lesbian, and bisexual service members to serve openly in the armed forces."

The Justice Department has indicated that it would appeal the November decision to the U.S. Supreme Court. It has until March to do so. ▼

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PLENTY OF FREE PARKING

NY judge

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told a gathering at a dinner held by the Human Rights Campaign that he would work "to change the law" if the ruling is struck down. But the audience booed him when he reiterated the city's decision to appeal the ruling.

"Mayor Bloomberg is a coward," said Tom Duane, an openly gay member of the New York Legislature. "He should stand with us in this most important civil rights battle of our lifetime."

Reactions

Reaction to Friday's ruling from LGBT groups was, predictably, favorable.

This "historic ruling delivers the state Constitution's promise of equality to all New Yorkers," said Susan Sommer, the lead Lambda Legal attorney on the case. "The court recognized that unless gay people can marry, they are not being treated equally under the law. Same-sex couples need the protections and security marriage provides."

"Last week Mary Jo and I celebrated our 23rd anniversary together, but we've never had all the protections and rights that come with marriage," said Jo-Ann Shain, one of the plaintiffs in the case. "We need these protections

to take responsibility for each other and for our daughter, and we are enormously grateful that the court saw that and said our family should be treated equally."

"We're getting hitched," plaintiff Curtis Woolbright said exuberantly. "We're so excited about this we can't express it."

"The court simply recognized that every New Yorker deserves the same promise of equality under law," said Seth Kilbourn, who heads up the Human Rights Campaign's newly announced marriage project. "This is about real people who are being denied real protections and security without the right to marry."

Social conservatives issued

their standard rant about defending traditional marriage. The Family Research Council's Tony Perkins said, "Unless Congress takes action to defend the institution of marriage we can expect these judicial fire drills prompted by aberrant judges."

But the religious conservatives had to drop the bit about "unelected judges" because Ling-Cohan is elected. And as Lambda Legal pointed out in its press release, "She was the only candidate in a field of 12 who was nominated by four parties, including the Republican and Democratic parties. She received 50,384 votes on the Republican Party line," more than most of the other candidates. ▼

Wayne Friday

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"The late Bob Ross was a good friend and gave me a lot of liberties with the column, and the B.A.R. has become the newspaper of the LGBT community; I take pride in being a small part of that. Tom Horn has good ideas, and has the paper on a good course."

Horn said the paper is in the process of finding another political columnist.

"While a community newspaper must continue to provide political commentary and analysis, it

is safe to say that Our Man Friday is irreplaceable. We hope that he will come back from time to time to give us his unique perspective on the political events of the day. He is always welcome."

Friday also left the door open to writing an occasional column.

"You might even see an occasional guest column, but it's time to hang it up," Friday said. "Thanks again to the many, many loyal readers who have stuck with me over the years. Peace."

Joe Caruso, Mayor Gavin Newsom's director of neighborhood services, said Friday followed the pulse of the community. ▼

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OBITUARIES

Jim Taylor



Dr. Jim Taylor, a management consultant with the Bay Group of Larkspur, California, died Mon., January 17 in San Francisco after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 61.

Dr. Taylor graduated from Haverford College, Phi Beta Kappa, and received his PhD in Classics from Harvard University in 1969. Following completion of his academic work, he taught classics at Newton College of the Sacred Heart in Massachusetts and at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. He subsequently entered the business

world with Bernard Haldane Associates, an executive search and counseling firm.

For many years until retirement, Dr. Taylor was a management training executive with Hewlett Packard and its successor corporation, Agilent Technologies. Upon retirement from Agilent he was Worldwide Training Manager, Sales and Marketing, for the Semiconductor Products Group in Santa Clara, CA.

Following retirement, Dr. Taylor lived in Nantucket, MA, where he authored a book, *Libraries Can Be Lethal*, published in 2002. He subsequently moved back to San Francisco, where he worked for the Bay Group, a professional consulting firm specializing in executive training. He was working on a sequel to his first mystery novel when diagnosed with cancer in mid-2004.

Jim Taylor was the son of the late

Floyd J. Taylor, Minister of the First Parish Church (Unitarian) in Lexington, MA from 1946 through 1968, and of Margaret Taylor, now living in Norwalk, CT. In addition to his mother, he is survived by his partner of 25 years, Jim Adams, of 26th Street in SE. He is also survived by his sister, Marilyn Nye Hannah and her husband Paul of Wilton, CT and by a niece, Margaret Taranto, a nephew, Paul Hannah III, three grand-nephews and one grand-niece.

A gathering of remembrance will be held on February 26 from 2 - 5 PM at 4229 26th Street, SE. In lieu of flowers, it is requested that contributions be made in Jim's memory to the Floyd Taylor Youth Fund of the First Parish Church, 7 Harrington Rd., Lexington, MA 02421, or to Pathways Hospice, 909 Hyde St. #541, SE, CA 94109.

In Loving Memory of
JOSEPH D. SOTO

On Friday January 21, 2005 at 5:25 pm Joe passed peacefully. He was born September 14, 1954 in MA but raised in Puerto Rico. He has lived in San Francisco for 25 years and graduated from the Academy of Art University.

His artistic talent ranged from theater, writing and painting. Although his collages told personal stories, they celebrated the beauty of life and explored the different stages a human being goes thru, including death. During the early nineties he toured parts of Pennsylvania playing children theater. In the last years he dedicated a lot of his time to mask making. Each had a story. He gave life to each of them by writing a story and playing each character at different functions. Joseph has been called in different artistic circles as "a complete artist - the real deal."

Those who met him admired how he could look at somebody past their eyes and directly into their soul. His kindness towards those less fortunate was unselfish. No, was not part of his vocabulary, it did not matter if he was under harsh time himself. He always found time and resources to lend a helping hand.

Joe is survived by an extended family of friends, his neighbors, Vicente and Carlitos, 2 grand nephews and 1 grand niece, his sisters Myriam and Gloriemer, 5 nieces and nephews.

WE ARE GATHERING TOGETHER ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2005 FROM 1:00PM - 2:00PM AT THE AIDS MEMORIAL GROVE, LOCATED WITHIN GOLDENGATE PARK, SAN FRANCISCO, CA FOR AN AFTERNOON OF REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF JOSEPH D. SOTO AND ENJOYING EACH OTHERS COMPANY.

Puerto Vallarta

◀ page 14

gained public sympathy and support through local and national media coverage.

The gay center of Puerto Vallarta is the southern part of the city in a neighborhood commonly known as Zona Romantica. Its cobblestone streets are jammed well into the night with tourists and locals enjoying the countless shops, restaurants, and nightclubs.

Accommodations

There's a wide variety of gay friendly accommodations available in Vallarta. Room rates range from about \$30 per night at the Adagio Vacation Apartments up to \$330 for the penthouse suite at the upscale Casa Cupula. Many hotels offer lower rates starting around mid-spring through the summer and fall.

The aforementioned Hotel Mercurio is in a perfect location in the center of the Zona Romantica. With room rates in high season starting at \$70, including tax, it is one of the best bargains around. The 28-room hotel bills itself as being straight friendly. When I stayed there, there was a great mix of gay men, a lesbian couple, a single woman, and a straight couple.

The six-story Blue Chairs Beach Resort hotel sits directly in front of the famous Blue Chairs beach. It features 40 rooms and is a great place to fall asleep to the sound of crashing surf. Rates there start at \$115.

The San Franciscan Resort and Gym is owned by San Franciscan David Rhodes. It is on a hill behind the Blue Chairs beach. Rhodes is a semiretired physician well known for his civic and charitable work. The San Franciscan is one of the newest and most upscale resorts in Vallarta. With rates starting at \$110, it is also one of the best values for those who like to travel in high style without busting their budget. Its gym is available free for guests and \$5 per day or \$20 per week for visitors. The San Franciscan features a rare

amenity: free local and long distance phone calls to the U.S. and Canada.

The ultra luxurious Casa Cupula is owned by another San Franciscan, Don Pickens. It's perched high on a hill with sweeping waterfront views. Rates start at \$190. Its spectacular \$330 penthouse suite features two levels with a semicircular bedroom and an ocean view.

The Vallarta Cora is on a hill two blocks from Blue Chairs beach and is known as "party central." The 12-room men-only hotel has a high sexual temperature like many of the resorts in Palm Springs. Its daily 4 to 11 p.m. pool party is open to the public. The cover charge is \$3 and you will get a free drink. Rates during the height of the season start at \$95.

Nightlife

Club Paco Paco draws a crowd seven days a week. It's open until 6 a.m. and usually doesn't get busy until around midnight. Down the street from Paco's is the modern and cavernous Sky club. It was formerly called NYVPV and features the head of the Statue of Liberty as a dance floor backdrop. It's busiest on the weekends. A short walk on the other side of the Rio Cuale from Paco's and Sky are the bars Anthropology and Balcones. Both feature strippers. Balcones has been in existence for 21 years and is Vallarta's oldest gay bar. The Apaches martini bar is lesbian-owned and popular with women. Sama is another popular martini bar. It features outdoor seating and is next door to The Palm bar, known for its entertainment. It currently showcases the Kinsey Sicks.

Day life

Paco's Paradise is a must-see. It's an isolated clothing-optional gay beach, hotel, and restaurant that is accessible by boat. If you want to check it out, your best bet is to meet in front of Paco Paco's at 11 a.m. A guide will escort you, via a public transit bus, to a beach where you will be shuttled on a boat to Paradise. Admittance to the beach resort, including the boat ride, is just \$10. The city bus ride is about 40 cents.

Money

The exchange rate is about 11 pesos per dollar. An easy way to do the conversion is to simply drop the last digit. So, the 174-peso cab ride from the airport is about \$17 U.S. dollars. The Banorte bank at 246 Olas Altas in Zona Romantica

will give you the best exchange rate of about 11 pesos per dollar. Just about every block has some place to exchange money, usually at a rate of about 10 pesos per dollar. That's still cheaper than exchanging money at San Francisco International Airport, which will give you that rate but charge you a \$5 fee. You can also usually get a good rate withdrawing money from an ATM. You can also charge purchases, but credit cards are not as widely accepted as they are in the U.S. and credit card companies generally tack on a surcharge of 2 to 3 percent for foreign purchases. Sales tax is 15 percent but in most cases the tax is included in the posted price.

Restaurants

Popular restaurants include Mama Dolores, Kit Kat, Café Bohemio, Café des Artistes, Archie's Wok, Café de Olla, Coffee Cup, Choco Banana, and Dee's Coffee Company. If you're on the go, you can grab a bite at one of the many street vendors. At about 60 cents a taco, you can't go wrong. By the way, restaurant workers only make about \$4 per day, so if you are given good service, be sure to leave at least a 15 percent tip.

Getting there

Alaska Airlines and United offer nonstop flights from SFO. Roundtrip fares start about \$335 but watch the sales for deals better than that. A cab from the Puerto Vallarta airport to the Zona Romantica section of town will run you about \$17 but the fare is only \$8 going back. That's because only special permitted cabs are allowed to pick up fares at the airport and they are allowed to charge extra. I paid \$25 for a shuttle service arranged by my hotel, Hotel Mercurio. They had someone waiting for me at customs to whisk me away to a waiting van to go directly to the hotel.

Getting around

City bus service is only about 40 cents but the bus lines can be kind of hard to figure out. Cabs are an inexpensive way to get around. The taxis don't have meters. They are all on a zone system. Your fare will depend on whether you are traveling within a zone or to another zone. A trip within the same zone runs about \$3. A trip across town will be about \$6. Your driver should be able to tell you your fare in advance. Mexicans usually don't tip cab drivers so drivers often seek out Americans. ▼

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For more information

A great gay guide can be found at www.gayguideval-larta.com. It includes a weekly calendar of events. It's available in brochure form in most gay places in Vallarta. The guide details and provides links to gay events including the popular "Latin Fever" held over Thanksgiving weekend, the recently held leather and bear week events, and the various circuit parties held throughout the year.

The official Puerto Vallarta Web site: www.visitpuertovalarta.com.

Mexico's official visitor's Web site: www.visitmexico.com.

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Foot work

by Jim Provenzano

If a dance event is competitive, does that make it a sport?

Ballroom dancing has been a highly popular event for the past two Gay Games, and will be included at Gay Games VII in Chicago and OutGames I in Montreal, both to be held in late summer 2006. Acknowledged as highly competitive, ballroom dancing's presence in a same-sex version at the past two Gay Games further established the event as stylish and fun to watch. The Games so far remain the only sporting competition — gay or straight — to include same-sex ballroom dancing.

Each Games host is allowed to diversify its events with a goal toward inclusion, and this has made some wonder what the criterion for a "sport" really is. Gay Games V even included chess and bridge tournaments as sports. Gay Games VI also included bridge and added aerobics competitions.

Like ballroom dancing, which expanded opportunities for the more artistic members of the GLBT community, country-western dance competitions bring like-minded people together for festive social events and entertaining competitions. Country-western dance clubs, an extension of the decades-long tradition of line dancing at bars and nightclubs, formalized such pursuits over a decade ago.

Among these clubs are 26 from Ohio, Virginia, South Florida, Texas, Europe, and Canada, all members of the International Association of Gay/Lesbian Country Western Dance Clubs. Participants at the association's 11th annual dance competition — held last July and hosted by Ohio's Columbus Stompers — are part of a growing country-western GLBT com-

munity.

"There are thousands and thousands of us," said Charlie Monroe, chairman of the Norfolk, Virginia Othersiders Country Western Dance Club, which took first place at the Columbus event. "It's not just about competition."

In various group-partner dances, both male and female dancers are judged on everything from choreography to precision and presentation. Many of the judges at gay competitions also work at straight competitions run by the United Country Western Dance Club Association.

"They're very experienced with techniques in all of the dances," said Carol Martinez of the Houston-based Lone Star Lariats, a club that brought more than a dozen members to the Columbus competition. Martinez has danced competitively and taught two-stepping for decades, and joined the Lariats when it started two years ago.

The next semiannual convention of country-western dancers will be the Spring Break Hoe-down, hosted by Southern Country South Florida, March 24-27, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Here in San Francisco, the annual Sundance Stompede draws hundreds for social CW dancing and parties. The Sundance Association is best known for its major project, Sundance Saloon, providing country-western dance instruction and open dancing every Sunday in San Francisco. The next Stompede is October 21-23.

But will country-western dancing ever be considered a sport? Most people think of sports as games played between opposing teams, with a ball or a fight for territory involved.

Vickie Dunn of the Lone Star Lariats has been teaching dance for 21 years, and said that while the atmosphere of a country-western dance competition is festive, the judging of group dancing can get serious.



Columbus Stompers at 2004's IAGLCWDC competition.

"When you have a team, you have to have however many people hitting the same line, the same steps, going out and coming back at the same time," she said. "Your footwork has to be better. Everything has to be better when you compete, or you don't place."

Chris Barnes, a nine-year member of Othersiders Country Western Dance Club, has also been the club's choreographer for four years.

"We worked really hard," Barnes said of the Othersiders' victory at the 2004 event. "You're always driven by the people you compete against. With Columbus Stompers, we've had a little rivalry with these guys for years. This is the first time we've won [IAGLCWDC competitions] two times in a row. Every other year, we always flip with them; they win, then we win."

Along with weekly practices and line dancing at a Norfolk country-western gay nightclub, the Outsiders double their practice schedule months before a big annual competition. Twenty-two core members competed in Columbus, with a dozen more attending practices, regional rodeos, and dance events in Virginia.

Barnes said that while winning at this year's IAGLCWDC wasn't easy, he had sympathy for his competitors' duties. "I think being the host team is a disadvantage, just because you're so dang tired!"

Keith Carson, a member of the Columbus Stompers for 11 years, grew up in Washington, D.C., and lived in Key West before moving to Ohio. A former ballroom dancer whose parents competed in competitions, and whose uncle performs in a country-western band, Carson competed with women partners in the ballroom circuit, but says he now prefers the gay community's version of country-western dancing.

"I've always loved dancing, but this is just more fun," said Carson. Along with the competitive as-

pects, he enjoys the difference from the formalities and restrictions of ballroom dancing.

"I can be myself," said Carson of his country-western dancing. "Before, I had a female partner, and it just wasn't my thing. I never really felt the groove with that. I placed first many times. But with country-western dancing, I follow and lead, and it doesn't matter to me which one I do. I just enjoy it." ▼

For past columns, visit www.sportscomplex.org.

Sports Complex

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dancin'

On Sunday, February 13, the Sundance Association will hold a benefit dance for Marriage Equality (a project of Equality California) at the Sundance Saloon, 550 Barneveld, in San Francisco, from 5 to 10:30 p.m., with lessons from 5:30 to 7:15 p.m. \$5 admission. For more information on country-western groups, visit www.iaglcwdc.org, www.stompede.com, or www.sundancesaloon.org.

Sporting life

Attention all GLBT jocks and former jocks! You have until next Saturday, February 19 to bring in your sports memorabilia to the GLBT Historical Society for its next exhibit, "Sporting Life: GLBT Athletics and Cultural Change from the 1960s — 2004."

Photos, souvenirs, trophies, medals, and other items are coming in from nearly all sports teams and many individuals. Be a part of the first exhibit all about GLBT athletes!

Find out how to participate, or visit the GLBT Historical Society, 657 Mission Street #300 in San Francisco. Phone: (415) 777-5455, ext. #1. E-mail: sportinglifesf@yahoo.com.

News Briefs

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(415) 648-1728 or visit www.aidsvote.org.

Queer youth event

Community United Against Violence is hosting "Opocalypse," an art show and open mic event for queer youth ages 25 and under on Friday, February 18 and the agency is looking for a visual artist to display their work and per-

formers for the event.

The event is free and takes place starting at 7 p.m. at 2973 16th Street, at Mission, in San Francisco. The site is near the 16th Street BART station and is accessible via the 14, 22, 23, 49, and 53 Muni lines.

CUAV plans other Opocalypse events once a month through June. For more information, call (415) 777-5500, ext. 311.

Tax amnesty under way

A tax amnesty program for state taxpayers started February 1, and those who are delinquent in paying state taxes have until March 31 to pay past taxes (sales and use taxes as well as franchise and income taxes) without penalties. Interest, however, does apply to the delinquent amount owed.

The program does not apply to federal taxes collected by the Internal Revenue Service.

Tax amnesty hasn't been offered in California in 20 years, and likely will not be offered again anytime soon, officials said.

Acting Board of Equalization member Betty Yee noted that the program was enacted by the Legislature as part of the 2004-05 budget as a way to generate revenue for the cash-strapped state. People are eligible to participate in

the amnesty program for tax reporting periods that started before January 1, 2003 (meaning the 2002 tax year and prior) if they have an existing unpaid liability, did not file a return or report tax for a taxable sale or purchase, or underreported sales or purchases on a previously filed return.

Under the program, individuals and businesses can pay taxes and interest for the above-mentioned reporting periods without penalties and without fear of criminal prosecution, Yee noted. People who have tax liabilities but do not participate in the amnesty program will be subject to an interest penalty and increased penalties on the outstanding amounts owed and new tax assessments.

For more information on the program or for an application, visit www.taxes.ca.gov. People can also call the Board of Equalization with tax amnesty questions at 1-800-400-7115.

Celebrity's big gift to Project Inform

Project Inform has announced that the Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation has made a gift of \$50,000 to the organization in honor of the agency's 20 years of national leadership in HIV/AIDS

research and treatment information, advocacy, and related public policy initiatives.

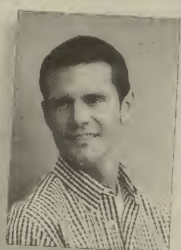
"Hope is what we so desperately need," Taylor said in a statement released by Project Inform Monday, February 7. "We owe it to those who are sick just as we owe them effective treatments, compassion, and support."

"Elizabeth Taylor is a true hero to all of us who have been fighting on behalf of people living with HIV/AIDS over the years," said Martin Delaney, founding director of Project Inform. "She recognized the significance of the epidemic from the beginning and threw herself into the fight long before it was fashionable."

Ellen LaPointe, Project Inform's executive director, said that the current political and economic climate "poses the very real threat that we could lose the ground community advocates have gained for people with AIDS through decades of painstaking, hard work."

The money will be used to continue Project Inform's work, including advocacy to expand access to treatment and care for those living with HIV/AIDS.

For more information on Project Inform, visit www.projectinform.org. ▼



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Crime

◀ page 10

ing garage.

Officers quickly responded, and at the victim's direction, searched the parking garage, finding the suspect hiding on top of the roof of Cafe Flore. A chase on the rooftop ensued, but the burglar was taken into custody without incident. The fire department responded with a ladder and the man was taken off the roof and transported to Mission Station. The 38-year-old suspect was booked for residential burglary, resisting arrest, and battery. During a search of his clothing, officers also recovered five bindles containing a white powder suspected to be methamphetamine.

On January 27 at 4 a.m. on the 100 block of Dolores Street, a man was watching television when he heard footsteps on his penthouse roof. The man looked out his window and saw a stranger walking on the adjoining rooftop of his neighbor's house, peering into nearby windows. The resident went to his kitchen to get a better look, crouched down in front of his window, and was startled when the suspect suddenly peered

in at him. Alarmed, the resident opened his back door and yelled, "What are you doing up here?" "I'm looking for my cat," the suspect replied.

"You're full of shit; I'm calling the police," the resident responded. The prowler quickly walked away as the resident grabbed his cell phone and went outside, dialing 911.

Responding officers searched the area, and at the direction of the resident, found the suspect hiding in a walkway of a nearby apartment building. The resident identified the suspect and officers arrested him for burglary.

Officers retraced suspect's steps, discovering several lockers in the resident's garage that had been broken into, and the light sensors on the roof unsecured.

The suspect was taken to Mission Station where he was booked for burglary, peeking into inhabited structures, and probation violation. A computer check revealed the 37-year-old burglar was listed as a sex registrant.

Home burglarized

Home Restaurant, located at 2100 Market Street, also reported being burglarized, on January 31 after the restaurant closed early

for a belated Christmas party. When the cook arrived at work the next day, he discovered the back door of Home unlocked and the safe inside the office missing. Police responded and viewed the surveillance tapes, which clearly caught the intruder in action. The tapes showed the suspect entering the restaurant, dismantling the 300-pound safe out of the wall, and carrying it out of the restaurant with a hand truck.

The burglar is described as a white or Hispanic male, in his 20s, 5 feet 6 inches tall, with an average build. He wore a red baseball cap with an "SF" logo. The suspect also wore a black jacket, black jeans, and black tennis shoes with white laces, and he used black gloves during the crime.

Residential burglaries were also reported during the last week of January on the 2600 block of 19th Street and on the 4100 block of 25th Street, with jewelry and computer equipment stolen.

Additionally, Citizen, located at 536 Castro, reported an attempted break-in on January 27 after the alarm company called and the owner arrived on the scene to discover the store's front window smashed. Nothing was discovered missing. ▼

LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Mayor's Office of Community Development is pleased to announce the availability of a supplemental Request for Proposals (RFP) for the 2005-06 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. This RFP is specifically for planning, facilities, and public services, with an emphasis on low-income neighborhoods in the southeast sector. The RFP will be available only online beginning February 10, 2005. Proposals will be due by 8:00 p.m., Thursday, March 3, 2005. For more detailed information on the RFP and how to apply, please see MOCDD's website at www.sfgov.org/mocdd.

VACANCY NOTICES

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 54974, California Government Code, notice is hereby given of the following unscheduled vacancies. Interested persons may obtain an application from the Board's website at www.sfgov.org/site/uploads/files/bdsuprvs/Vacancy_Notices/vacancy_app.pdf or from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, City Hall, Room 244, SF CA 94102. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of SF, unless otherwise stated. Additional information may be obtained by accessing the City's website: www.sfgov.org/bdsuprvs

Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled. To determine if vacancies for this Task Force are still available, please call the Rules Clerk at 554-5184.

Arts Task Force

Vacant seats, new appointments, seats 1 through 11, each seat appointed by the District Supervisor, preference may be given to individuals residing in that district, for a six-month term to be determined.

Vacant seat, new appointment, seat 13, must be an artist working the San Francisco Bay Area, for a six-month term to be determined.

Vacant seat, new appointment, seat 14, must serve as a director, staff member or board member of a non-profit arts organization based in San Francisco with an annual budget exceeding \$5 million dollars, for a six-month term to be determined.

Vacant seat, new appointment, seat 15, must serve as a director, staff member or board member of a non-profit arts organization based in San Francisco with an annual budget between 1 million dollars and 5 million dollars, for a six-month term to be determined.

Vacant seat, new appointment, seat 16, must serve as a director, staff member or board member of a non-profit arts organization based in San Francisco with an annual budget between \$250,000 and 1 million dollars, for a six-month term to be determined.

Vacant seat, new appointment, seat 17, must serve as a director, staff member or board member of a non-profit arts organization based in San Francisco with an annual budget less than \$250,000, for a six-month term to be determined.

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West Café

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Limited kitchen

Guns and gays

◀ page 12

there in terms of poverty. It's not really analogous," he said, emphasizing that the proposed San Francisco ban is about local communities setting their own standards.

And aside from murders, said Barnes, gun violence includes incidents like suicide, escalated domestic situations, and home accidents, all of which affect the LGBT community.

"For every circumstance you can think of," he said, "the presence of a handgun increases likelihood of mortality."

Boyer, on the other hand, speculated that the handgun ban would just drive more people underground and encourage gun owners not to register their firearms. And where there is hid-

den gun use or ownership, said Margaret, there is cause for alarm.

One thing that does seem certain about the proposed gun ban is that the city will have to defend it in court, as gun groups have already promised to sue if voters pass it. A state appeals court already overturned a San Francisco handgun ban in 1982, and gun rights advocates like Boyer said that history means that some supervisors are being irresponsible with city money by pursuing legislation which will require costly litigation.

"We're in the worst budget crisis I can remember in my 23 years of living here," said Boyer. "They are talking about closing the Tom Waddell clinic and drastically cutting back on the visiting nurse's program and yet these supervisors are willing to engage in expensive litigation. They will be throwing money away."

Barnes said that the gun ban should prevail in court, because the 1982 court ruling was based upon the city creating new gun licensing schemes, "and we're not doing that, we're simply saying you can't own them in San Francisco."

Barnes added that it is consistent with the state Constitution "to be able to set laws of concern to the local community."

The handgun ban campaign will host its official kickoff tonight (Thursday, February 10), at Rascala's jazz club at Fillmore and O'Farrell streets. More information on the legislation can be found at www.stopbandguns.com.

The Pink Pistols, meanwhile, is in the process of organizing a "coming out" campaign for gun owners and will be organizing around the legislation in a variety of ways. Visit www.pinkpistols.org for more information. ▼

CARE Act

◀ page 17

Francisco every year since 1996 in the formula funding."

Local AIDS advocates say it is very unlikely that will be changed this year.

"We expect that is going to continue in this next reauthorization. It just makes providing services in San Francisco that much more difficult," said Hopkins.

One proposal may be reducing the Act's funding streams, called titles, from four to two. Tierney said such a reduction might have advantages if it means the savings are put toward services.

"I think if they save money on administration and deliver money to AIDS and HIV risk reduction it is a good thing," he said. "I think it is very unlikely there will be any new money, but in any large government program, there is room for efficiencies. If that leads to less money on bureaucracy and more money on clients, I think that is the only hope we have for seeing any increase in funds."

Another concern is what advocates call the "medicalization" of the CARE Act, wherein primary care services are funded but complementary services are not. While the local CARE Council, which sets the priorities of how the city spends its CARE dollars, has al-

ways put primary care at the top, it has also worked to fund other services.

"Ensuring there isn't a medicalization of the CARE Act where everything isn't funneled only to primary care is something important to San Francisco. We are talking about people who need these other services to maintain their involvement in primary care," said Allgaier. "That is why we have mental health services, case management, and other supportive services. This is an issue the Bush administration doesn't see as important but the AIDS community sees as vital."

Allgaier said there is also concern about federal officials usurping the various CARE councils' control and exerting more say

over where the money goes in each city.

"Now the local CARE councils direct where the money goes, which is how it should be. We want to see that continue," he said.

Ultimately, AIDS advocates say their real fear is that federal officials will reduce the quality and standard of care under the CARE Act in order to provide a broad but incomplete set of services to a larger number of people.

"At the end of the day the biggest challenge we face is a growing population of people with HIV and AIDS in need of access to public programs and a reduction of funding to the programs that serve them," said Hopkins. "There is no easy fix for that kind of a problem." ▼

Moore

◀ page 5

paign literature borrows a phrase from the late Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, in that it states that Moore is "unbought and unbiased."

Moore told the crowd that the other candidates she's talked to in the race don't seem to be emphasizing LGBT-inclusive language and praised Wan for establishing a roundtable where gay residents would meet and discuss various

issues. And she said her experience working with seniors has helped in her decision to enter the race.

"What do I learn from elders?" she asked. "That if you want to do something, you do it now. That is the passion behind this campaign." ▼

For more information on Moore's campaign, visit www.mooreforokland.org. For voter registration information, call the county registrar's office at (510) 272-6973.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541676

In the matter of the application of Leslie Anne Carter for change of name. The application of Leslie Anne Carter for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Leslie Anne Carter has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Gabrielle Anne Carter. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 15th day of February, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
JAN. 20, 27, FEB. 3, 10 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0281971-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Wizard of Change Wellness, 342 9th St. #212 San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Wendy S. Wiseman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/10/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/10/05.
JAN. 20, 27 FEB. 3, 10 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0281959-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: 1.) Eng & Associates, 2.) Barrister Law Group, 3.) Golden Gate Law Offices, 4.) Golden State Law Offices, One St. Francis Place Ste 520-201 San Francisco, Ca. 94107-1338. This business is conducted by an individual, signed John J. Eng. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/10/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/10/05.
JAN. 20, 27 FEB. 3, 10 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541617

In the matter of the application of 1.) Cindy Fan 2.) Kevin Fan 3.) Elvina Fan for change of name. The application of 1.) Cindy Fan 2.) Kevin Fan 3.) Elvina Fan for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that 1.) Cindy Fan 2.) Kevin Fan 3.) Elvina Fan has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to 1.) Cindy Angela Fan 2.) Kevin Bill Fan 3.) Elvina Diana Fan. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 24th day of February, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
JAN. 20, 27 FEB. 3, 10 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282113-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Unbelievable Edibles, 421 Taraval Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Sean Lackey. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/01/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/14/05.
JAN. 20, 27 FEB. 3, 10 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282179-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Baking Arts, 542 Brannan #410 San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Richard Festen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/29/04.
JAN. 20, 27 FEB. 3, 10 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282287-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: SP Hardwood Floors, 445 Harriet St., San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Marek Burzynski. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/21/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/21/05.
JAN. 27 FEB. 3, 10, 17 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282236-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: E & H Real Estate Investing, 136 Molino Drive, San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Elizabeth Williams. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/20/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/20/05.
JAN. 27 FEB. 3, 10, 17 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282220-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: All Wired Communications, 775 Goettingen St., San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Walter Kent Anderson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/04/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/20/05.
JAN. 27 FEB. 3, 10, 17 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282139-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: ONO, 400 Valencia St., San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Venia Shotteyayaratana. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/14/05.
JAN. 27 FEB. 3, 10, 17 2005

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0281751-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Evolving Productions, 2642 Gough St. #102, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by domestic partners, signed Veronica Labeau and Christopher Grinstead. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/30/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/30/04. JAN. 27 FEB. 3, 10, 17 2005

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To whom it may concern: The Name of the
Applicant(s) is/are: Haddad Joel Jamil. The
applicant(s) listed above are applying to the
Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
at 71 Stevenson Street, Suite #1500 San
Francisco, Ca. 94105, to sell alcoholic be-
verages at: 3698 17th Street, San Francis-
co, Ca. 94114 Type of License applied for:
**41-ON-SALE BEER AND WINE -
EATING PLACE**
JAN. 27, FEB. 3, 10 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282306-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:
Berger Design Build, 2067 Golden Gate Ave.
San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is
conducted by an individual, signed Brian
Berger. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed fic-
titious business name or names on 1/24/05.
The statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/24/05.
JAN. 27 FEB. 3, 10, 17 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282343-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:
B & S Crane & Erection Service, Inc.
1939 45th Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94116.
This business is conducted by a corpora-
tion, signed Susan Wanlass. The registrant(s)
commenced to transact business under the
above listed fictitious business name or
names on 1/01/05. The statement was filed
with the City and County of San Francisco,
Ca. on 1/25/05.
FEB. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282379-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:
Cantium, 345 12th Ave. San Francisco, Ca.
94118-2108. This business is conducted by
an individual, signed Daniel Catala. The
registrant(s) commenced to transact business
under the above listed fictitious business
name or names on 1/01/05. The statement was
filed with the City and County of San Francisco,
Ca. on 1/26/05.
FEB. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282218-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:
Professional Resources, 332 Pine St.
Suite 307 San Francisco, Ca. 94104. This
business is conducted by a corporation,
signed Ted Ammiro. The registrant(s) com-
menced to transact business under the
above listed fictitious business name or
names on 1/01/05. The statement was filed
with the City and County of San Francisco,
Ca. on 1/19/05.
FEB. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282415-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:
Vitalane Creative Design, 39 Boardman
Place #104 San Francisco, Ca. 94103.
This business is conducted by a corpora-
tion, signed Juancho Vitangcol. The regis-
trant(s) commenced to transact business
under the above listed fictitious business
name or names on 1/01/05. The statement
was filed with the City and County of San
Francisco, Ca. on 1/27/05.
FEB. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282418-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:
Patio Apartments, 8 Byron Ct. San Francisco,
Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a
limited liability company, signed Cesar G. Agudelo Jr.
The registrant(s) commenced to transact business
under the above listed fictitious business
name or names on 1/27/05. The statement
was filed with the City and County of San
Francisco, Ca. on 1/27/05.
FEB. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282383-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:
The Pickled Hutch, 1605 Church St.
San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is
conducted by an individual, signed Lisa
Wilson. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed fic-
titious business name or names on N/A. The
statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/26/05.
FEB. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282375-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:
Georgina Acosta Medspa, 940 Bush St.
San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is
conducted by a corporation, signed Mina
Coyota. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed fic-
titious business name or names on 1/26/05.
The statement was filed with the City and
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/26/05.
FEB. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282499-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:
Spencer and Company, LLC, 491 Cas-
tro St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This
business is conducted by a limited liability
company, signed Dennis E. Spencer. The
registrant(s) commenced to transact business
under the above listed fictitious business
name or names on 1/31/05. The statement
was filed with the City and County of San
Francisco, Ca. on 1/31/05.
FEB. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #0280400

The following person(s) have abandoned
the use of the fictitious business name
known as Spencer and Company located at
491 Castro St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114.
This business was conducted by an individual
signed Dennis Edward Spencer. The
fictitious name was filed with the City and
county of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/01/04
FEB. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #273451

The following person(s) have abandoned the
use of the fictitious business name known as
Speed Pro Towing Inc., located at 251
Capp St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This
business was conducted by a general part-
nership signed Raul Oropeza. The fictitious
name was filed with the City and county of
San Francisco, Ca. on 2/06/04
FEB. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #AB0269833

The following person(s) have abandoned the
use of the fictitious business name known as
Allfix Handy located at 56
Seville St. San Francisco, Ca. 94112.
This business was conducted by an individual
signed Alberto Benarides. The fictitious
name was filed with the City and county of
San Francisco, Ca. on 9/10/03
FEB. 3, 10, 17, 24 2005

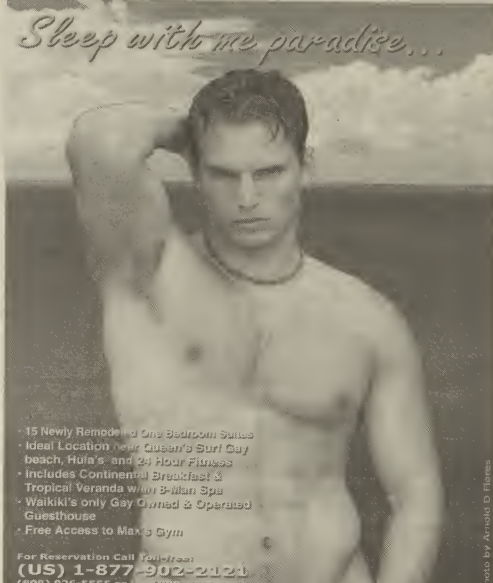
STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #A0282296-00

The following person(s) are doing business as:
Eliza's Restaurant, 1457 18th St. San
Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is
conducted by a corporation, signed Tran
Thuy Luong. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed fic-
titious business name or names on 11/25/93.
The statement was filed with the City and
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FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3 2005

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0282295-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Eliza's Restaurant, 2877 California St. San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Tran Thuy Luong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/26/99. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/24/05.
FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3 2005

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0282555-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Zoom and Look, 3844 21st St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Lance Evans. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 2/1/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/1/05.
FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282558-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Cinematic Xpressions, 1261 Broderick St., Ste. 101, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Stephen Jang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/1/05.
FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282562-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Affordable Mortgages, 630 Grand View Ave. #208, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Gurinder Kang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/1/05.
FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282086-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: PeaBrain, 1292 Noe St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Whitni Rader. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/1/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/13/05.
FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282617-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: InfoNuggets, 821 York St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Stephanie J. Pappas. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 2/3/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/3/05.
FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282672-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: SNS/Sign-N-Seal Notary Service, 3321 19th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed JoAnne J. Maldonado. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/1/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/4/05.
FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282603-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Cyberbears, 3435 Cesar Chavez #206, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a limited liability company, signed David Green. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9/12/02. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 2/2/05.
FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0282363-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Gymboree Play and Music, 1525 Sloat Blvd. San Francisco, Ca. 94132. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Agnes Lau. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 1/25/05.
FEB. 10, 17, 24 MAR. 3 2005

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE
To whom it may concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is/are: Bonilla Norma Del Carmen and Jose U. Marencovalis. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 71 Stevenson Street, Suite #1500 San Francisco, Ca. 94105, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 3322 Mission St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. Type of License applied for: 41-ON-SALE BEER AND WINE-EATING PLACE
FEB. 10 2005

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE
To whom it may concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is/are: CBTW L-PSHIP. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 71 Stevenson Street, Suite #1500 San Francisco, Ca. 94105, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 90 Natoma St. San Francisco, Ca. 94105. Type of License applied for: 48 - ON-SALE GENERAL PUBLIC PREMISES
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Culture clash
 German, Turkish ways
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 35 • No. 6 • 10 February 2005



Lisa Kron feels your pain

Meeting the challenge of empathy in 'Well'

by Richard Dodds

Late in her new play *Well*, Lisa Kron makes a brief mention of having sex with a girlfriend. It's not the subject of the play, and Kron didn't think she needed to alert audiences that she's a lesbian before that point.

"It's assumed that the audience has exactly the same point of view about it as I do," Kron said. "That on its face it's not political, but in the context of homophobia in the world, it makes it political."

She's making a statement by making it a non-issue, but that doesn't mean audiences always agree.

"When I was at Sundance working on it, this guy who worked there said, 'When you say that [about lesbian sex], people are taken aback, and I feel it takes them out of the play.' That's a totally interesting question, because on the one hand it does not help me to have people lose track of the play for five minutes, but on the other hand, why would they assume I'm straight? I just decided, fuck 'em. If they're going to spin out, it's their problem."

If audiences read their programs, they'd know that Kron is also a member of the Five Lesbian Brothers. But Kron has created a number of well-received one-woman shows between ELB projects, including *2.5 Minute Ride* and *101 Humiliations*. She describes *Well*, opening this week at the Geary Theatre, as a "one-person show with other people."

A big success at the Public Theatre in New York last year, *Well* has been optioned for a Broadway production this fall. Because of that, Kron has been turning down offers to perform *Well* at regional theaters. But her producers suggested she accept ACT's offer to test the show in a Broadway-style theater.

"The more formal the theater," Kron said, "the more the play's dynamic really reads."

Kron plays with the conventions of theater throughout *Well*, as other performers break character to criticize her attitudes and, in one case, even wrestle her to the ground. Mostly, they're upset at how Kron, who often talks directly to the audience, treats her mother.

The play actually centers on Lisa's mother, Ann, a community organizer who helped heal a racially divided Lansing, Mich., but who has also suffered for years from debilitating pains and lethargy she attributes to allergies. Lisa also spent time in an allergy clinic before finding relief after moving away.

In her opening speech, Lisa declares that the play is not *really* about her mother and herself. Reading from a notecard, she says it's actually a "theatrical exploration of issues of health and illness, both in the individual and in the community."

"Of course, the moment I say it in the play, the character of Lisa is com-

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Love in & out of the closet

Two gay DVDs for Valentine's Day

by David Nahmod

Mango Souffle (2002) Water Bearer Films

The first feature-length gay film from India is not a product of the Bollywood industry but the work of maverick independents. Making do with limited resources, they got their film made and screened around the world. In a country as conservative as India, that's quite an impressive achievement, perhaps even an historic one!

Marketed incorrectly as a romantic comedy, it is nonetheless a film worth checking out. Writer/director Mahush Dattani based his film on his own play, and focuses on a dinner party being given by handsome, out fashion designer Kamlesh (Ankur Vikal) for his motley crew of gay friends. Some may find the stereotypes-'r'-us

characters that come to his party reminiscent of *The Boys in the Band*. Two screaming, bitchy queens, a closeted actor, the straight female best friend, a so-called "straight" man engaged to Kamlesh's sister: no stereotypical stone is left unturned.

Some Bay Area LGBT residents may find closet cases laughable and pathetic five years into the 21st century. We forget that the rest of the world cannot, even now, live as freely as we do.

Mango Souffle deals quite well with the horrors of the closet, and with themes of love lost and found. Kamlesh has a broken heart, and is throwing his party to announce that he's moving to Canada to heal. As things turn out, his sister is engaged to his deeply closeted ex-lover, Ed (Atul Kulkarni), and the "happy couple" show up at the dinner party!

Also present at the party is Kamlesh's previous ex, Sharad

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Loving and leaving Las Vegas

Cirque du Soleil opens 'Ka' at the MGM Grand Hotel

by Roberto Friedman

When an invitation arrived to attend last week's gala opening of the newest Cirque du Soleil extravaganza *Ka* in its own designed theater at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, we thought: *Na*. We've always enjoyed Cirque's brand of super-jocky, wacky-costumed, kaleidoscopic spectacle under the Big Top when they've toured through SF, but total immersion in the overstimulating "gelting pot" that is Vegas? Honeys, Out There has never been a material girl.

But then our theatre critic took off for the greater charms of Broadway, and we thought: Hmm. Spandex-encased acrobats slathered in glam makeup, hurtling themselves through the air above our *tete* for our decadent amusement? Dammit, the *B.A.R.* should be there!

Vegas is no natural habitat for Out There. Three primary reasons? 1) Gambling has no inherent appeal for us, as we have so



Structural costumer Michael Curry with his Cirque crabsuits.

few pennies left to lose; 2) Our only previous visit was in the company of our rakish older brother, who loves gaming, is a bad boy who counts cards at the blackjack table, consequently getting his booty (and that of his ingénu younger bro) unceremoniously bounced from the best casinos; and 3) Our beloved pal Pepi grew up there, which explains a lot, at least about why he had to get out.

Anyway, OT was up for the visit and the Cirque opening, especially when we learned that the new spectacle would be created by Quebecois avant-garde director Robert Lepage. His stagework *Far Side of the Moon*, presented a few seasons

back by Cal Performances, captivated us. Here, Lepage collaborated with stage designer Mark Fisher, best known for designing sets for Pink Floyd, the Stones and U2. During a fascinating backstage tour, Fisher described the performance we'd see that night on *Ka*'s two flying stages as using "a different approach to gravity."

The tour brought us four stories under the stage, and introduced us to costume designer Marie-Chantale Vaillancourt, whose non-traditional approach to circuswear is described by the [UK] *Guardian* as "all leather skirts, tattoos and brightly coloured mohawks. And that's just the boys." Puppet designer Michael Curry prefers to call his creations "structural costumes," but they are inspired marvels, including crabsuits for contortionists, and insect drag for millipedes and walking sticks.

The show is really all about spectacle, conjuring up a post-apocalyptic world full of fire and fury. Lepage delivers stunning effects: shipwrecked, Cirqueurs fall down to the bottom of the sea, scale a sheer cliff-face, and engage in vertical swordplay, as if seen from



Cirque spearsmen from *Ka* in costumes by Marie-Chantale Vaillancourt.

above. The aptly-named *Wheel of Death* is amazing, as Mexican acrobats incredibly stay fleet of foot atop spinning circles of steel.

Official budget for this spectacle: \$165 million, though off-the-record insiders say it's closer to \$220 mil. That makes it probably the priciest live-entertainment ever created, and Cirque hopes to keep it going for 10 years. It's all so Late Roman Empire.

Grand hotel

Enthralled by the digital flames emanating from bottles embedded in the walls, enjoying a roving musician playing electronic violin, OT had our groove on at a media party in the MGM Grand's Teatro when we were spotted and chatted up by friendly SF publicist Charles Zukow. Always good to see familiar faces. Spotted at the gala *Ka* afterparty: Q Vegas editor

Stephen D. Moore, last seen being nipped to pieces in a Japanese deer park. Plus, a big shout-out to Out There's pal Tony Montana, his charms on full display for photog Jansi in this month's *Freshman* mag. Looking good, "muscle jock in training!"

At Tabu, we went tabletop-dancing with a Eurogag couple, silently thanking whatever deities are appropriate for us infidels. Fell to talking with this charming man who handles p.r. for fights and other sporting events. Wider than he was tall, all broad shoulders and V-shaped torso, wrapped up tight in a business suit — the type SF poet Kevin Killian calls a "pocket Adonis." He regaled us with tales of boxing matches to come while we nodded and pretended to know what the hell he was talking about. It would be like

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DANCE

Ecstasy courtesy of SF Ballet

New season's programs 1, 2 are full of glamour, glory

by Stephanie von Buchau

Even with the delicious rumor, confirmed Monday, that Houston Grand Opera's David Gockley would be named new general director of San Francisco Opera flying around the lobbies and press room of the War Memorial Opera House, San Francisco Ballet deftly stole everybody's attention with the opening week of its 72nd repertory season. SFB used to be a poor stepsister to the opera and symphony. No more. The slipper fits, and Cinderella is now queen of the realm. The season's first two programs proved that without a doubt.

The Gala may have been a teaser, but Programs 1 & 2 were solidly entertaining and fabulously danced. Whereas previously there were always one or two principal dancers who didn't quite fit, this season the principals are all glorious, with Joan Boada looking like a true team player in Helgi Tomasson's *7 for Eight*, toning down the star snottiness to deliver fleet footwork and musical charm. The partnership of Tina LeBlanc and Gonzalo Garcia reminds me of a reversal of the old Fred-and-Ginger line: "She gives him class, and he gives her sex." They give us ecstasy.

Yuan Yuan Tan and Yuri Posokhov set the bar so high in their initial pas de deux in the sleek, sophisticated *7 for Eight* that you wondered if it was going to be all downhill after that. But no, LeBlanc and Garcia flew through their duet, and when Tan and Posokhov returned for their autumnal, regretful yet maturely romantic final pairing, I thought the top of my head was going to buzz off its mooring. There are still issues with the SFB Orchestra (celebrating its 30th anniversary this year) playing baroque music. Andrew Mogrelia conducted, and Michael McGraw played the Bach keyboard concertos vigorously, but I could use more finesse and sharper, brighter rhythms and color in this music.

The hapless, onstage, amplified jazz combo arrangements of Richard Rodgers songs by Marvin Laird nearly sank Lar Lubovitch's *...smile with my heart*. McGraw's piano sounded tinny while the oddball scoring of three cellos, a flute and oboe, with modernistic harmonies and fussy part-writing, spoiled the naive simplicity of those beautiful melodies. Lubovitch is not a choreographer I care about in any case, but did this piece need to be so dank?

After a clumpy ensemble, at least the three duets exploited the company's best dancers. To "The Sweetest Sounds," Frances Chung leaped into Garcia's arms, her

Sarah Van Patten in Paul Taylor's *Company B*: popular dance styles.

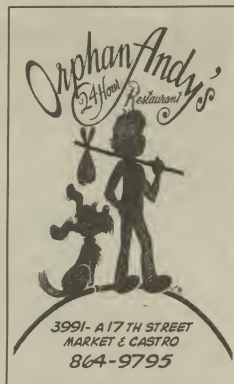
amazing feet doing things in the air that are so much fun you laugh out loud. Katita Waldo, dancing with renewed intensity this year, plays the woman tortured by cad Damian Smith until she finally tells him to buzz off in "I Didn't Know What Time It Was" and "Where or When." Stephen Legate goofily romances the depressed LeBlanc in "My Funny Valentine." If they could lose the padded intro and the annoying amplification, *...smile with my heart* would be a lot better piece.

The new work on Program 2, Stanton Welch's *Falling* (to Mozart's *Divertimenti*) is another of those competent, low-key works by established but not innovative choreographers with which Tomasson likes to stock the pantry shelves. Mildly pleasant, almost always 10 minutes too long, and using music like wallpaper rather than for inspiration, they don't even bother to differentiate among the dancers. Tan, dancing with David Arce, was wasted. Once again, LeBlanc and Garcia stole the show with superb bursts of energy, daring and musicality, but I could choreograph them. Welch favors a sort of windmilling arm gesture that gets really tiresome after six minutes. Gary Sheldon conducted.

Up to speed

The two new pieces may have been generic, but the rest of the programs were top-drawer. *Falling* probably looked weaker than it is, following Mark Morris' *Maelstrom*. Not only did Beethoven's "Geister" Trio — played by Roy Malan, David Kadarau and Roy Bogas — sound wonderful coming (unamplified) from the pit, but the ensemble cast was up to speed, flowing and darting in the outer movements, and just about stopping your heart in the magnificent "Largo," moodily lit by James F. Ingalls. I don't know about you, but I have trouble

charming beach-bum he makes) and Guennadi Nedvigine as the super-pumped-up "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy of Company B." It always amazes me how foreign-born artists adapt to American popular dance styles. Maybe the ability to shake your booty is one of the first things Tomasson looks for in auditions. ▼

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Kristin Long, Muriel Maffre, Elizabeth Miner in Mark Morris' *Maelstrom*

Meeting not so cute

German/Turkish cultures collide 'Head-On'

by David Lamble

There's no question that if you are, like I am, the product of the collision of a 40something man and a 20something woman who came together like two trucks — leaving "hamburger all over the highway in Mystic, Connecticut," as the Fire-sign Theatre used to joke — you'll be a big fan of the very bloody, very erotic, very punky new German/Turkish film *Head-On*, opening Friday at the Castro Theatre. And if not, go screw yourself and see it anyway.

The collision referred to above is no mere metaphor. Cahi (Biro

Unel), who as the film opens is picking up empty beer bottles at a bar run by a friend, runs his car into a brick wall at high speed. This is no accident. The accident is that he's not dead, and instead has to answer the annoying questions of a German doctor.

"There's a thousand ways to kill yourself. Why drive into a wall?"

"Who said I wanted to kill myself?"

"There were no skid-marks."

The doctor, really pushing the envelope, then gives the unhelpful helpful advice that people like him are to suppose to dispense.

"If you can't change the world, change your world."

"You're off your rocker, Doc."

But that would be like the cop who interviews Sid Vicious after he's done away with Nancy, telling Sid that "everything's going to be okay." It certainly isn't, although in this film, this Turkish Sid is still waiting to meet his Nancy.

When she does show up, having faked a suicide attempt to get her very traditional Turkish parents off her back, Sibel (newcomer Sibel Kekilli combines a trace of the butch dyke-boy look with the rugged-gal look patented by *That '70s Show*'s awesome Laura Prepon) decides that Cahit is her guy, a guy she can live with, in an honorable marriage of convenience that will placate her parents, while she continues to play the field.

Honor comes up a lot in *Head-On*, and like asbestos it turns out to be a toxic substance even if taken in very small doses. To Sibel's very traditional father and brother, it means if she persists in acting like a Western whore, they will kill her. Her brother has already broken her nose as a kind of down payment on this threat.

The Hamburg-born son of Turkish parents, writer/director Fatih Akin hasn't made a film that says Turks will be better off by simply trading their ways for Western ways. Even the most problematic customs and beliefs can't just be swapped for a new model. Akin — while dramatizing the failure of Germany to incorporate its Turkish immigrants into mainstream German life — isn't just bashing



Photo courtesy of Strain Releasing

There's a whiff of machismo in writer/director Fatih Akin's *Head-On*.

German racism. No, the problem is that an essential part of an immigrant's soul lies buried deeply in the roots of another culture.

Odd couple

Cahit and Sibel are not a cute couple, but gradually, insidiously, they do become some kind of couple. She takes his trashed-out Kurt Cobain hovel of a flat and

gives it a radical makeover. He gasps, "It looks like a chick bomb went off in here."

She cooks, and he gets off his beer-only diet. But she brings guys home, and he keeps a German girlfriend on the side, a woman who employs Sibel as a hairdresser, setting up one of the film's many tragic impositions.

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IMAGE: Lorenza Fio and Nicolas Bata in Peter Schöller's *Well* at SF Ballet.

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Michael Danel

Kron with veteran actress Jayne Houdyshell, who plays her mother.

Lisa Kron

◀ Arts cover

pletely deluding herself, but in fact, in the bigger sense, it's not about us," Kron said. "I am interested in the gap in how we picture ourselves, what we aspire to be, and then there's really what we do everyday. I think character is revealed in the places where we stumble."

Blaming the victim

In the case of *Well*, Lisa stumbles when she tries to blame her mother for her illnesses, and when she gets better, then tries to convince her mother that she could also get better if only she tried harder.

"I think the play is about the challenge of empathy," Kron said. "It's about individuation, it's about leaving home, it's about me feeling like my mother can't see me, and at the end of the play, it turns out I'm the one not seeing her."

Kron gives unbridled credit to Jayne Houdyshell, the veteran actress who played her mother in New York and is recreating her role here. "There are a lot of things we couldn't have done with this play if it wasn't for Jayne," Kron said. "People will come up to her afterwards and say, 'Have you ever done a play before?' They really think she's my mother. She seems like a person who has been plopped on stage and can still be heard in the back row. The craft that she has is just unbelievable."

The real Ann Kron still lives in Lansing, and Lisa calls her "my number one publicist." But Lisa doesn't think it would be a good idea to perform *Well* in Lansing,

even though the town is a major character in the play. "I feel if I did it there, it becomes autobiography in a way that I don't mean it to be."

Growing up in Lansing, Kron had no idea that she was a lesbian. Not even in college. "I think I thought I was straight. I had crushes on men, but then I realized much later that they were all gay men."

Kron says she "didn't register as pretty," and her mother "gave me no training in the currency that girls use in the world. I think I consciously developed a personality that would keep me from being invisible. I did determine around junior high school that my goal was to be the person about whom it was said, 'She is the funniest person I know.'"

* Learning how to be comfortable *not* always being funny, especially on stage, came later. A lot of that training happened at the WOW Café Theatre in New York. It's also where she found her groundings as a lesbian.

"I unlearned all the stupid stuff I knew and started to relearn at WOW, a lesbian performance collective that's been in the East Village forever. The thing at WOW was that nobody ever came out. Nobody ever explained anything. A gay world was kind of presumed, and we went from there."

WOW is also where Kron met Peg Healey, her partner of 17 years and a fellow lesbian Brother. "Now she's living in Los Angeles as a screenwriter," said the New Yorker. "We spent a lot of years where we were together 24 hours a day, so I feel like we've built up a certain amount of relationship equity that we've been spending down."

They will be reunited when the

next page ►

Smaller works surprise

SF Symphony prevails with reduced forces

by Philip Campbell

At least once in every season, certain members of the San Francisco Symphony are allowed to take a break from regular performing duties. For the past two weeks, the orchestra has been playing at reduced size while Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas has also been on a hiatus.

After the recent Southern California tour, it must have come as a welcome pause for the hard-working musicians, but subscribers and drop-in patrons could hardly go without their customary fix.

The solution has been a series of concerts devoted to Baroque and Classical period works that do not require a large ensemble. The featured composers will also be heard throughout the rest of the year, but it has been a pleasant change to enjoy them as the primary attractions. Hearing the progression of influences from Vivaldi to Papa Bach, Haydn and Mozart has actually amounted to something of a midseason mini-festival.

It also gave some of the participating SFS players a chance to show their solo skills, and afforded a glimpse of Concertmaster Alexander Barantschik's conducting expertise. In addition, two low-key Symphony debuts brought some fresh new faces to the scene.



Concertmaster 'Sasha' Barantschik

Violinist Barantschik isn't likely to steal MTT's job anytime soon. He tackled the leadership chores from his usual first chair, and made little attempt to impose a personal interpretive vision. Perhaps it was the most sensible approach. The individual pieces really relied more on teamwork. His most impressive achievements came, rather predictably, from his own solo work.

Korean-American harpsichordist Jung Hae Kim joined with Barantschik, and flautist Robin McKee in a lively rendition of J.S. Bach's *Brandenburg* Concerto No. 5. The middle movement was especially attractive, and Ms. Kim's performance was



Guest conductor Peter Oundjian gestures during an orchestra rehearsal.

marked by remarkably expressive playing. Her technical facility couldn't mask some imperfections, but it was still enough to make her debut a memorable one.

Piccolo player Catherine Payne emerged as the real star of the evening. Hardly anyone's favorite instrument, the piccolo still requires ridiculous dexterity to sound like anything more than an occasional novelty item.

Vivaldi's *Concerto in C Major* is a virtuoso workout by any standards, and Payne tore into it as if it were the simplest child's play. Softening the potentially earsplitting high notes and running through the passagework with breathtaking ease, she simply stopped the show. Her charm and alluring stage presence also made a great impression.

Mozart's *"Serenata notturna"* closed the first half, and turned into something of a classical jam session, with witty asides from the four soloists in the amusing concluding Rondo. Violinists Barantschik and Dan Smiley (quoting from Bach and Mozart's own *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*) were joined in the fun by violist Geraldine Walther and new principal bassist Scott Pingel.

Bear lite

Last week, guest conductor Peter Oundjian returned after three years to lead an evening heavily weighted towards Mozart. There was a sprightly Haydn Symphony No. 82, *The Bear*, to get the ball rolling, but it was really just a foretaste of an evening of light and satisfying listening.

Israeli pianist Shai Wosner made his SFS debut with back-to-back performances of inconsequential but delightful pieces. The Mozart Rondo in D Major is generally thought to be the finale of an early concerto that has become a stand-alone showcase for keyboard skills.

Wosner certainly proved his talent, and I'm glad he had the humility to introduce himself with a work that doesn't scream hello. The relatively brief Rondo flew by, with just the right amount of bril-

liance and elegant phrasing.

He followed with Chopin's take on a famous Mozart tune, the Variations in B-flat Major on "La ci darem la mano" (from *Don Giovanni*). It isn't the kind of exercise that I would ordinarily expect from a new artist, but Wosner further demonstrated his ingratiating lack of self-importance, and he made a tasty meal of it.

Of course, the audience gave him the increasingly meaningless standing ovation, and I suspect he was more than a little surprised. He certainly earned a hearty welcome, so he will just have to learn to accept such responses from American audiences. ▼

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by
Lisa
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Lisa Kron

◀ previous page

Five Lesbian Brothers reassemble to present *Oedipus at Palm Springs* in New York this summer.

"It's our version of the Oedipus story," Kron said, "but it deals with two couples who go on vacation to this lesbian resort in Palm Springs. It's really funny, but ulti-

mately it's a tragedy. And we're asking, can we make a lesbian character stand in for the essence of humanity? In particular in this case, can we do it with a butch lesbian?" ▼

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Queer today, gone tomorrow on the tube

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Hard to believe it was only last year that Janet Jackson's wardrobe malfunction during the Super Bowl halftime show engendered a Congressional hearing over a nanosecond of bared breast. The resultant crackdown by the FCC on live and other programming has meant seven-second delays everywhere — although that was in abeyance at Sunday's Super Bowl halftime show, because Sir Paul McCartney had promised no wardrobe malfunctions. But when he claimed that he would simply perform naked, no one laughed. There are still a few dichotomies: like how conservative FOX owner Rupert Murdoch is a big purveyor of porn on Direct TV.

While Jimmy Kimmel fumes in late night about how limiting the FCC censorship is (which fuming, however, has led to his hilarious Friday night "This Week in Unnecessary Censorship," where clips of totally tame news and other TV moments are bleeped and obscured to create the illusion of filth), Kendall and Ethan (among others) are having simulated sex naked in the steamroom on *All My Children*.

Remember the big flap over Nicolette Sheridan dropping her towel for Eagle Terrell Owens? Why no corresponding flap over Alison dropping her towel for Aaron on *As the World Turns*? (We've lost count of how many towels Kendall has dropped for various men on AMC,

since she's Pine Valley's bedroom welcome-wagon.)

It's not that we want the sex off daytime, mind you. We just find it a curious contradiction that the furor over Janet and Nicolette was because their exposés occurred during prime time, "when young children would be watching." The hours between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., when all the soaps air, are what exactly? On PBS during those hours, it's all-kid programming.

(Where *SpongeBob Squarepants* and his furry friends at *Sesame Street* are wreaking their own havoc with their subversive diversity talk, which has also got the FCC in hypervigilance.)

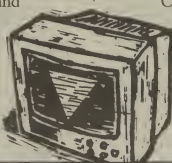
Was anyone (other than Janet Jackson, whose career took a bigger plunge than her cleavage) really harmed by that poor-taste moment at the Super Bowl last year?

It does beg the question, however, about all these censorship glitches, because *Desperate Housewives* airs in prime time, and the simulated sex on that show is pretty intense, rivaling soap-sex for soft-porn sensibility. Plus we'd like to point out that Gabrielle (the adorable Eva Longoria, whose lingerie wardrobe is to die for) is screwing the unbelievably sexy high-school gardener, John (that cutiepie beefcake Jesse Metcalfe). Although John's mother has suggested arresting Gabrielle

for statutory rape, John's dad has nudged-nudge, wink-winked about the whole affair.

If the FCC is concerned about *SpongeBob* spouting diversity, then why is it turning a blind eye to a married woman in her 30s sexing up a high school boy?

Now, *DH* was created by Marc Cherry, a nice, nelly queen from the Midwest, so it's not like we want to rain on that parade. But we do find it curious that there is such a double FCC standard between the live and the fake, between attempts at inclusivity over on *Sesame*



Lavender Tube

Street and the acceptance of underage sex-partners on *DH*.

No-fly zone

And then there's queer TV. What queer TV? you ask. That would be our point. Yes, there's a new *Queer Eye* show on cable, and the new season of *The L Word* premieres in a week; there's still *Will & Grace*, and Will finally has a boyfriend; but except for a queer here and a queer there on prime time, where's the diversity? Why haven't queers managed to break out on prime time after all these years? No doubt the chilling effect from the FCC with all its dichotomous "issues" has added exponentially to the problem of queers coming out on the tube.

Rather than broadening, the field of queers on the tube will narrow very soon as the only queer character on daytime takes her leave. On February 24, Eden Riegel makes her last appearance as Bianca on *All My Children*. The thrice-E Emmy-nominated Riegel has chosen not to renew her contract with ABC after more than four years in the role of Erica Kane's lesbian daughter.

AMC will be writing Bianca's character out for now: her character will leave Pine Valley. Exactly how Bianca will leave is being kept very hush-hush, but our guess is that her recent declaration of love for Maggie (Elizabeth Hendrickson, who is also being written out) may be the opener for the two to take off together with Bianca's baby, Miranda. Another possibility is that Bianca's old girlfriend Lena lures her to Poland, as she has been attempting to do for months.

However Bianca exits, and we have no doubt AMC will give her a proper send-off, it will be for a good long while. With Bianca goes her front-burner storyline. The absence of Bianca means an absence of queers on daytime.

Riegel told *Soap Opera Digest* it wasn't dissatisfaction with the role that prompted her to leave, but rather that she's so comfortable at AMC she could imagine being there for years, and not expanding her acting career. Riegel's pro-gay, openly supportive behavior during her stint as Bianca (she has continually referred to playing the part of a lesbian as "a privilege") makes her leave-taking all the more painful for her queer audience.

So why not fill the gap? Soaps are continually bringing in new characters, reviving old ones, or turning characters in completely different directions. Why can't the soaps bring some new queer characters into play? Criticism of AMC abounded after Bianca declared her lesbianism, but AMC didn't falter, even showing on-screen kissing and a romp or two in bed between Bianca and Lena. The audience came to accept Bianca as a

lesbian, and even root for her and her love affair with Lena. For months, she and Lena were listed as AMC's favorite couple by soap fans. AMC even had Bianca in bed with Babe to set up Babe's husband, JR. Risky and risqué, but it all worked because the characters were established and beloved.

AMC showed how it could and should be done: Make the character important, even integral, to established characters who already have a fan base. Then keep the character front-burner, so the audience is forced to accept her. When *One Life to Live* tried to broach their own gay storyline with a peripheral character who didn't even have a last name and the off-screen brother of a favorite on-screen character, the storyline just didn't take. Thus Mark and Eric drifted off the canvas, and so did the concept of queers on *OLTL*.

But why can't the other soaps do what AMC did, and create a successful, well-integrated queer character who interacts with other characters, is queer, but whose queerness isn't always the focal point of the character?

We learned Serena's character on *Law & Order* was a lesbian as she was leaving the show. Wouldn't it have been more interesting to have that fact come out over the years and play into various storylines?

What about Currie Graham's character on *NYPD Blue*? The show has only a few episodes left (the final episode of this fantastic series airs March 1), and his closet-case Lieutenant may remain there until the show ends. Of course, *NYPD* has had a resident queer, John (Bill Brochtrup), for seven seasons, and has done nothing with the character except use him as a foil, so that's not surprising, but why the reticence, particularly on a show that brought the words "prick" and "asshole" into common parlance (without FCC censorship) on the small screen, and bared the asses of a host of characters, including the sexy Jimmy Smits and Everyman Dennis Franz? Playing coy with the gay characters seems oddly prudish for a show that has had "blue" in more than its title since its inception.

This inchoate line between the acceptable and unacceptable needs crossing, and it will take writers, producers and directors, some of them queer, to cross that line. (Queer directors like Paris Barclay, Jan Oxenberg and Donna Dietrich have all had a hand in *NYPD*, for example.) It isn't just the problems at the FCC that are to blame. Producers, writers and directors have a history of queer fear on the tube. Yet 10 years ago, *Friends* had a gay wedding, and that lesbian couple had a baby together. They were part of the show. Fifteen years ago, *thirtysomething* showed a gay male couple in bed together. For a while, several years ago, *NYPD* had a lesbian couple front-and-center. Sure, cable now has *The L Word*

and a handful of other queer-themed programs, but where is the network development of gay characters? Remember Jack on *Dawson's Creek*? Willow on *Buffy, the Vampire Slayer*? These were teen characters who had real, live queer relationships on screen in which there was kissing and going to bed, and acceptance by their peer groups of their relationships.

So why not add another queer character here and there, as AMC did so well? Will would be a perfect gay boy on *As the World Turns*. *Passions* certainly has room for some queers in their sexual zoo. What about *General Hospital*? Surely there's room for some queer activity, and it would make a change from all the virtual incest that goes on there. *OLTL* could still redeem its floundering gay storyline by bringing the gay characters into the forefront, linking them in some defining way with established characters.

Pre-Bianca, it had always been a shibboleth that there were no queers on daytime, but AMC took the plunge and found critical and audience success. CBS' *Cold Case* has queer-themed shows all the time: why not make Lily a lesbian? After all, CC is produced by lesbian filmmaker Jan Oxenberg, and created by NYPD alum Meredith Steith.

Can't one of the hordes of *CSI* people go queer? Like sexy pathologist Hill Harper on *CSI: NY*, or Jorja Fox's character on *CSI* (she played queer briefly on *ER*)? Speaking of *ER*, isn't it time to revisit Kerry Weaver's lesbian life on that show, or add a new queer character from all the new people on board? There are numerous ways daytime and prime time can embrace queer characters who are more than stereotypes, or who have actual partners, instead of the solo queers we so often see, like John on *NYPD Blue*.

We'd be happy to see David Krumholtz (Charlie) on the fabulous new CBS series *Numbers* (be sure to watch on Fridays) go queer. We know he doesn't have a girlfriend, because the issue has come up in each of the three episodes that have aired thus far. Why not make it clear he was once lovers with his math mentor Peter MacNichol, and is now looking for a new lover?

Another venue for queerness to take hold is the sexually perverse *Boston Legal*. Last week's episode played with the queer issue when a lesbian sued her former lover. The show was a bit over-the-top in just how it played with the lipstick lesbians, but it opened a door that could easily be flung wide. With Candace Bergen having joined the cast, why not make her a dyke? With her tough-as-nails attitude and her many trips to the men's room, she would be perfect for it. Bergen has played queer before, years ago in *The Group*, so it's not alien for her.

This is all musing on our part, but it couldn't hurt to start e-mailing and writing the Powers-that-Be at the various networks, requesting a little more queer visibility from their programming. If sex can be so blatantly purveyed on *DH* and the soaps, why not toss a few queers into the mix? They don't necessarily have to be screwing on-screen, but they do have to be on screen, out of the closet and, at least occasionally, in committed relationships.

As Jay Leno quipped back on Groundhog Day, "What's the difference between Punxsutawney Phil and Ryan Seacrest [of *American Idol*, etc.]? Phil came out this morning." Really. Stay tuned. ▼

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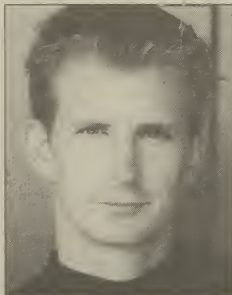
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Bill Brochtrup: NYPD queer.

BOOKS

Happy birthday, Abey baby!

Controversial book claims Lincoln was gay

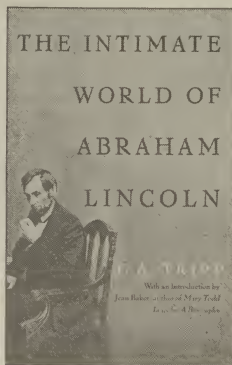
by Joe E. Jeffreys

The Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln by C.A. Tripp; Free Press, \$27

He was the 16th President of the United States, and founder of the Republican Party. He led the nation through a difficult Civil War and freed the slaves. His birthday this month is even honored with a national holiday. But was Abraham Lincoln "a gay American," as New Jersey's former governor labeled himself while resigning? C.A. Tripp's *The Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln* argues that he was at least a Kinsey 5.

Even before it hit bookstores a few weeks ago, this outing of one of our most revered presidents caused a stir. It was directly referred to in jokes on both *The Tonight Show* and *The Daily Show*, and subject of innumerable mentions in the press worldwide. If that isn't enough, veteran activist Larry Kramer has been touting its importance for years.

Tripp is not the first historian to argue that Lincoln demonstrated sexual attraction primarily to men. Women, such as his wife Mary Todd, who bore him four children, were incidental in his life. Some of the information here, like Lincoln's lifelong, close friendship with Joshua Speed, with whom he shared a bed for four years, has been common knowledge in scholarly and Lincoln-aficionado circles for years. Much of Tripp's contribution to the debate, however, is new, or at least freshly and convincingly



reinterpreted.

The case, argued in academic prose, is armed with a vast arsenal of sources, including letters, diaries and a thorough knowledge of Lincoln's voluminous previous biographies. Tripp unearths a ribald ballad Lincoln wrote in 1829, "First Chronicles of Reuben," about the marriage of two men, which shows intimate knowledge of anal sex. We learn about Lincoln's relationship with his bodyguard, David V. Derickson, with whom Lincoln slept in the same bed while Mary Todd was away. He also had a brief fling with the dashing Elmer Ellsworth, who is known as "the first casualty of the Civil War."

Early bloomer

The fact that the word "homosexual" was not coined until 1868, after Lincoln's death, and the even more recent notion of "gayness" does not escape Tripp, who

worked in the 1940s and '50s as a sex researcher with Alfred Kinsey. In fact, it is this background as a sex researcher that allows him to see and interpret information that others have passed over or put aside. He places great importance in his conclusion that Lincoln reached puberty before he was 10 years old. According to Tripp, this made our future president "sex-minded" from an early age and more open to a range of sexual experiences. Looking at Lincoln's relationships throughout his life, Tripp concludes that Lincoln, never comfortable with eligible women, had a "fundamentally homosexual response." (In a parenthetical moment, he even suggests that Abe was a top.)

Tripp demolishes the alleged Ann Rutledge affair, and asserts that outside Lincoln's late and tempestuous marriage to the clearly unbalanced Mary Todd, there is no evidence of any other heterosexual relationship in Lincoln's life, while stories and evidence of his attentions and devotion to men appear again and again. Call it what you will.

If we grant that Lincoln was gay, as Tripp argues, then things like his independence, loneliness, secretive nature, sadness and ability to take anti-Establishment stances make more sense as part of his outsider experience.

Author of the groundbreaking 1975 study *The Homosexual Matrix*, which argued that homosexuality was inborn as opposed to acquired, Tripp died two weeks after completing this character study that forever opens the log cabin closet-door on honest Abe. ▼

to boil over. And it isn't just the men who are violent. Sibel is a modern Turkish woman who is always about to explode in anger and defiance at the forces she perceives to be keeping her down. Her relationship with her well-meaning but workaholic sister Selma (Meltem Cumbul), who would like Sibel to join her on a life-denying career track, details when Sibel decides she'd rather be an opium addict.

Nothing in *Head-On* really adds up until we arrive in Istanbul, and the characters face down their possible futures. In a film where language matters, some characters speak German, some Turkish, some shift back and forth

depending on how the mood strikes them. At a crucial moment, a character delivers a heartfelt speech in English.

In Turkey, people appear to get what you mean even if they don't particularly like you, or where you're coming from. In Germany, the meaning changes with the language spoken. Sibel discovers this, to her sorrow, when she blurts out these highly charged words to a German man whom she slept with just to see what that would be like. "I'm a Turkish woman. Leave me alone, or my husband will kill you." ▼

Plays the Castro, Feb. 11-17.

Head-On

◀ page 32

Head-On mixes a post-punk soundtrack (Depeche Mode and The Sisters of Mercy) with quirky comedy and slices of traditional Turkish culture. A Turkish musical contingent plays during what amount to act breaks, a mix that is engaging while making it impossible to know just what we'll be headed for at high speed.

As with many authentically crafted films from the "Third World," there's a dense whiff of machismo, punctuated by frequent "faggot" epithets and a cauldron of bloody violence just about

Out There

◀ page 30

OT trying to get this *Sporty Guy* up-to-snuff on the Byzantine dealings of the *SF Opera*. "By the way, do you date men?" Wasn't gonna happen.

Another night up late in Vegas, where there are no clocks, we oohed at the landmark Cirque show *O* (as in *eau*, water spectacle) at the Bellagio, and met our cocktails at *Caramel* and *Circo*. Our cabbie for the trip back to the airport implored us to stay in Vegas. But we missed our own private Babylon, the one by the Bay.

Art w/heart

If you pay any attention at all

to world-class contemporary art, you know that artists **Christo** and **Jeanne-Claude** will be unveiling 7,500 fabric archways over the sidewalks of New York's Central Park on Feb. 12. The epic work is called *The Gates, Project for Central Park*. The artists have donated signed prints of *The Gates Under One Roof* (549 Castro St., 415-503-2300), the only site in the nation outside of NYC to offer these works. They will go on sale on Saturday.

There are seven different views of *The Gates*, ranging in price from \$380-\$600, framed. All funds benefits Under One's Roof's ongoing fight against HIV/AIDS. Christo and Jeanne-Claude's website is run by a longtime UOR volunteer (www.christojean-

neclaude.net).

Curtain speech

For people who want to give up gay-unfriendly radio station KDFC but not go cold turkey on classical music, B.A.R. reader **Robert Eakin** of SF offers some alternatives. "On the Internet, try WCPE, KUSC, or WQXR. All are superior to KDFC in that there are virtually no commercials or cute-ly-named program segments. They also play complete works, not bits and pieces, even during commute time. And you can hear classical vocals and opera, including *the Met* live on Saturdays." Thanks for the tip, Bob.

Hey we almost forgot, happy Lincoln's Birthday to you, our first-ever gay national holiday! ▼

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Women of mass destruction

Euripides' 'The Trojan Women' has a great cast

by Tavo Amador

An important power is at war but cannot defeat its enemy. Its leaders demand that a third state support its military plans. That ultimatum is refused, and the third state asks to remain neutral. Its request is rejected. War is declared, and the neutral state defeated, its male population killed, its women enslaved, and its land turned over to a more amenable population. This tragedy occurred in 415 BC, when the Greek city-state of Athens, at war with Sparta for 16 years, destroyed Miletus, capital of Melos, for not complying with its insistence of either financial or direct military support.

The great Greek dramatist Euripides (480(?) - 405 BC) reset the Athenian atrocities to the end of the Trojan War, when that great city had been destroyed. His *The Trojan Women* (415 BC) is one of the oldest, most powerful anti-war literary works, one that resonates today. In 1971, director Michael Cacoyannis (*Zorba the Greek*, '64) assembled a remarkable cast to film it. That movie has just been released on DVD. Katharine Hepburn plays Hecuba, Queen of Troy. Genevieve Bujold is her daughter, Cassandra. Vanessa Redgrave portrays Andromache,

Hector's widow and Hecuba's daughter-in-law. Irene Papas is cast as Helen, the woman whose abduction triggered the hostilities.

Cacoyannis eliminates the prologue, a discussion between Poseidon and Athena, and starts the film with a prostrate, disheveled, black-robed figure stirring outside the ruined walls of Troy. This is Hecuba, surrounded by a chorus of women. She recalls the horror that has befallen her, her family and her homeland, then is confronted by a messenger from the victorious Greeks. Thalthybius (Brian Blessed) informs her that she and the other women will be enslaved and will have to board the ships sailing back to Greece.

Family strife

As in the play, Hecuba is present throughout, lamenting the death of her children, railing at the endless cruelty of the Greeks. Following classic theatrical conventions, no more than three principal characters and the chorus appear together at any one time. First to join Hecuba is Cassandra, a priestess of Apollo. Cursed with the gift of prophecy, yet unable to convince others of the accuracy of her vision, she has been claimed by Agamemnon, King of Mycenae and commander of the Greek forces. Cassandra

predicts the horror that awaits him upon returning home — his wife Clytemnestra (Helen's twin) will murder him, launching a series of bloody family reprisals.

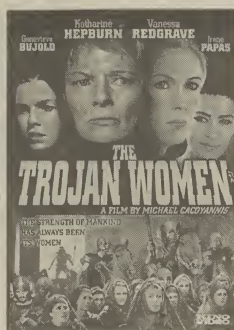
Andromache appears next, devastated by Hector's death and fearing for their little boy, Prince Astyanax. Before she is taken away to a ship, she learns that the Greeks, fearing the power of a surviving male from the Trojan royal family, order Astyanax thrown from the walls.

The last to enter is Helen. Her husband, Menelaus (Patrick Magee), confronts her. Hecuba blames all the tragic events on her, but with supreme assurance, Helen refutes the charges. She says Hecuba and King Priam should have murdered their son Paris at birth. Had they done so, he would not have seduced and kidnapped her, bringing her to Troy, causing the war. Will Menelaus forgive

her?

Hepburn plays Hecuba with great physicality and fury. It's a daring if not always successful performance. She lacks the vocal resources to vary the color of her long speeches. Eventually, she wears the viewer with her one-note stridency. Still, she is moving when cradling the dead Astyanax, weeping that he had promised to mourn her at her death — but it's she who now buries him. She is also excellent in her confrontation with Helen.

Redgrave is an ethereal Andromache, every inch a princess, touching in her grief. Bujold's Cassandra has the appropriate mix of madness and clear vision. Best is Papas, proud, arrogant, and skilled in deflecting blame, confident that her beauty will save her from the fate of the other women. Blessed (Augustus on TV's *I, Claudius*) is forceful as the conflicted messenger and enforcer,



while Magee effectively conveys Menelaus' weakness.

Unfortunately, Cacoyannis in essence filmed the play, rather than transforming it into a movie. The result is at times static. Nonetheless, the eloquence of its condemnation of war's brutality remains potent, and makes *The Trojan Women* worth seeing. Euripides was in a sense a Cassandra: Sparta ultimately defeated Athens in the Peloponnesian War. The Greeks understood the dangers of hubris. Let's hope today's leaders do as well. ▼

Valentine discs

◀ Arts cover

(Fareedoon Dodo Bhujwala), a screaming queen whose catty demeanor masks a warm, loving heart. Sharad and Kamlesh are obviously still in love. As the party progresses, a series of events outs Ed and helps Kamlesh and Sharad begin to find each other again.

Mango Souffle is a heart-warming little film. Those who take offense to the film's effeminate characters need to take an honest walk down Castro Street. Such people have always been part of our community. Personally, I found it refreshing that a screaming queen could actually come across as a nice person, as Sharad does.

The film has some technical problems due to its obvious low budget. Some of the cutting is jumpy, and the sound is poorly recorded. These are minor quibbles. *Mango Souffle* is, as far as Indian cinema is concerned, a daring step forward. Its lead character is openly searching for gay love that does not elude him. Bravo!

Water Bearer Films presents *Mango Souffle* full-screen. The film is in English. As extras, the disc presents a music video featuring the leads and the film's trailer.

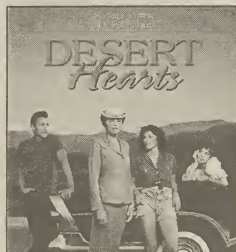
Desert Hearts (1986) MGM

Lesbian director Donna Deitch's film was considered a groundbreaker when it was released to rave reviews and brisk box office in 1986. Never before had a lesbian-themed film presented two women falling in love so graphically, both in terms of onscreen lovemaking and the deep, spiritual love the characters came to feel for each other.

Set in Reno in 1959, the film follows repressed college professor Vivian Bell (Helen Shaver), in town to get a quickie divorce from a loveless marriage. While staying at a guesthouse run by tough-talking Frances (Audra Lindley), she meets out, loud, and proud Cay (Patricia Charbonneau), who immediately senses their mutual attraction. Cay goes after Vivian shamelessly, and the two begin an affair that Vivian, who considers herself straight, is very uncomfortable with. Yet the two are so drawn to each other, there's no way for Vivian to step back.

The two fall deeply in love. They are soulmates, and their love is so intense that the viewer can actually feel and share in their love.

This low-budget film is nothing less than spectacular. Never before had the love between two women been presented onscreen in so shamelessly romantic and erotic fashion. The two leads, both said to be straight, have an erotic chemistry that burns a hole through the screen and into the viewer's heart. Shot on location in Reno, the



film captures its time and place beautifully. Nor does it skirt the very real issues of coming out and homophobia that couples of that era had to deal with.

Also worthy of a special mention is the late Audra Lindley, whose performance is as memorable as the two leads. It's hard to believe that the intense Frances is played by the same actress who appeared as Mrs. Roper on the rapid sitcom *Three's Company*!

Desert Hearts is essential viewing for women, but don't pass it by if you're a member of another gender. This male viewer actually got chills from seeing Vivian and Cay express their deep love for each other. That kind of once-in-a-lifetime love is something we should all experience.

MGM presents *Desert Hearts* letterboxed. The print is superb! Extras include a commentary from Deitch, the film's trailer, and subtitle options in Spanish and French. Happy Valentine's Day! ▼

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SF's colorful wild parrot population is thriving and breeding in the city by the Bay. A new film tells their story.

Man-bird love affairs

'Wild Parrots' want a cracker?

by David Lamble

Wild parrots in San Francisco? Mooooo!

It's amazing how long you can live in a place without having a clue about the wild life it's capable of sustaining. Okay: every possible type of canine, cat, wild pig, raccoon, hippie, beatnik, clone, Muni driver, but seriously, parrots? Don't they live in jungles with hot weather? Creatures we hear about when disgruntled rubber-workers are burning another piece of the rainforest, when Johnny Depp needs a living prop for a still more improbable movie, or the answer to a *Jeopardy* question about the longest-living creatures capable of swearing in the greatest number of tongues.

Turns out not only are there flocks of wild parrots nesting in Telegraph Hill, but they have a human caretaker, a creature almost as exotic as a parrot born in Southern Peru. He's a guy who's lived in one of prettiest neighborhoods in one of the world's most expensive cities for a decade and a half without paying a nickel of rent, who wanted to be a novelist, a musician, a spiritual bum, and who, thanks to the parrots, has become a paid writer and the star of his own movie.

Mark Bittner's story in Judy Irving's *The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill* is both a special tale of how wild creatures persist and thrive in the most unlikely urban enclaves, and a beautiful fable about a lifetime bachelor who loses his heart to a parrot, growing to have an intricate set of relationships with as many as 50 birds whose individual quirks, ailments and love lives he knows like their personal shrink.

In the film's opening scene, a skeptical tourist asks Bittner, "How can you say they are wild birds when you've named them and feed them every day?" The tourist grunts a disbelieving "whatever" to Bittner's answer, but the truth about these birds is more perplexing than the eternal plight of homeless humans.

There are as many urban legends as to how the parrots got here as there are parrots: pets freed by disgruntled roommates, a population which escaped from a pet store whose little old lady owner flipped

out one day when the screeching got to her. But one of Bittner's most interesting observations is that the birds are now breeding in this very chilly city. Turns out parrots don't mind the cold—a hardy flock survives Chicago winters. All they really need is a steady food supply and protection from their few predators: hawks, humans, city inspectors, and conservationists who think they should all be exterminated because they're not from here.

Bittner observes how the parrots maintain their own hawk alert, surprising the birds of prey with aerobatics worthy of the Blue Angels, with whom they share these skies.

Bittner himself distracts tourists with parrot lore to keep them from harming the birds, and he even made a special appearance before a commission to convince city fathers not to use anti-pigeon

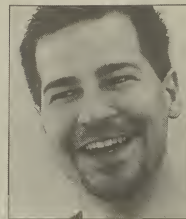
tactics against the parrots.

The most poignant parts of the film are when Bittner describes his parrot love stories: the elderly bird who wanted to share his bed on the last night of her life; the ill-tempered parrot named Mingus (after jazz bass player Charlie) who had to be put out for a spell when he started pecking at Bittner's feet; the lovebird parrots who maintain seemingly monogamous relationships for years; and yes, hints of homo parrots, male birds who start grooming and attending to each other's intimate needs.

In the end, his devotion to his feathered friends pays unexpected and richly deserved dividends for this kindly man. But to know the details you should see the movie. As an added bonus, the soundtrack contains a sprightly ballad sung by another lovely spiritual bum, Jack Kerouac. *Now playing.* ▼



Caretaker Mark Bittner is as free-spirited as the parrots he loves.



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OUT&ABOUT

Sacha Sackett brings his *Shadowed* tour to Club Deluxe. See Tuesday.

Calendare by Mark Mardon



LA scenester/artist Sham zeroes in on tranny icon Amanda Lepore

Sham, Beats & JT

First things first: **Asia Argento's** film version of **JT LeRoy's** *The Heart Is Deceitful Above All Things* was a smash success at the SF IndieFest opening last week. The screening was preceded by a reading of LeRoy's novella *Harold's End* at A Different Light Bookstore, and among those standing in for the as-always elusive author were Penelope Houston of the seminal punk band The Avengers, Stephen Jenkins of Third Eye Blind, Jerry Harrison of The Talking Heads, Speedie from LeRoy's band Thistle, and Sean San José from Intersection for the Arts here in SF. San José said he'd never met JT, but he's a powerful actor and he gave a powerful reading. Fellow LeRoy fan Dan Nicoletta and I and all the folks in the bookstore went up the street to the Castro Theater, and it was like being in church, everyone was so reverent. Asia played Sarah with complete authenticity and convincingness. The kids who played Jeremiah too were real and soul stirring. The brutality of the life depicted was painful to experience, but tempered by Argento's superior artistry, making the film gorgeous to watch.

While the IndieFest is underway, over at **ATA Gallery** (992 Valencia St.) this **Friday, February 11** at 9 p.m., a truly independent film will be screened by the artist/film/video maker known as **Sham**. The colorful young LA-based artist, a master of punk drag and pop art, has produced, directed and edited *Fierce*, an art video that collects striking images and artful renderings of pop-culture icons Heidi Fleiss, Alexis Arquette, Tammy Faye, Jenna Jameson, and the LA billboard phenomenon herself, the bimboesque Angelina. Sham, who recently ran a fab club in LA called *Revolver*, captured these icons and scenes of trippy, super-styled queer punks, mixed it all together with his wild and crazy imagination, and has produced a winner for the truly underground, hip queersters among us. For info, call ATA at 415-824-3890.

At the Main Library this weekend, a stellar bunch of queer poets showed up for readings from **Regina Marler's** *Queer Beats: How the Beats Turned America On to Sex* (Cleis Press), a book of selected writing. Marler's keen eye and her ear for juicy gossip has crafted a great book. Among those with her to celebrate were impassioned poets Daphne Gottlieb and Thea Hillman, themselves icons of the current Beat generation, along with that giant of queer lit, Kevin Killian, who unearthed and shared with us some previously unpublished Jack Spicer poems; the powerful performer/poet Joel Tan, who linked today's hip hop beats to the Beats of yore; and the always dynamic Kirk Read, who had the whole audience reading a John Giorno piece, and then moved into a riveting monologue from a sex worker making clear to his fellow whores that speed use is a car wreck in progress. ▼

Fri 11

Lesbian/Gay Chorus of SF @ The LGBT Center

The Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco continues its 25th anniversary season with "Love Still Bites," an annual tradition in which the Chorus takes a look at the flip side of love — just in time for Valentine's Day. Under the direction of Stephanie Lynne Smith, the Chorus presents an eclectic program that highlights the ins and outs of love and that appeals to the serene and the bitter, the delusional and the illusionless, the oversexed and the undersexed, and everyone in between. Special guest singer/songwriter Jill Sizemore will share her thoughts on love with a selection of romantic songs. Ms. Sizemore has performed across the country in her varied and exciting career, and her background in folk, country, and rock music gives her a broad appeal. A silent auction will be held Friday at 7pm, and Saturday's show features an outstanding raffle. Tickets are \$20 for a table seat, \$15 for general seating, and \$10 for students and GALA affiliates. They may be purchased in advance through any Chorus member, by calling the Chorus office 415-861-7067, or from Does Your Mother Know?, located at 4141 18th St., between Castro and Collingwood. Rainbow Room at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. Two nights: Fri., Feb. 11 & Sat., Feb. 12, with shows at 7:30pm. Info/tix: www.lgcsf.org.

Juice II @ Jon Sims Center
dance/theater: Juice part 2 (the pulp diaries of everyday artists) the juicy excerpts and all new works based on the secret diaries of the players. A colorful romp through the past and present lives of an eclectic group of talented performers, featuring dance, poetry, theater, and more. Curated by Sarah Moss. Featuring: poets Marie Kazalia and Charselle, Cabaret burlesque sensation "the Indra", The Kook Troupe, Liminal Dance Theater, Jenice Acosta & Movers (JAM) Pappas + Dancers, Peck Peck Dance Ensemble (doing a video installation piece) Modern dancers Aura Fischbeck and Jenni Updenkelder, spirit soul tapper Edward Jackson. with afterparty on sat, the 12th! Jon Sims Center for the Arts 1519 Mission Street (btwn. 11th & S. Van Ness Street) February 11th & 12th, 2005 8pm \$15-20 sliding scale (no one turned away for lack of funds). Tix/info: 415-554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

Irene Soderberg @ The Depot's Rainbow Room, Napa

Irene Soderberg, the Blonde Bombshell, will return to the Rainbow Room with her bawdy cabaret presentation of the tin-pan alley songbook. The Depot kitchen is getting into the act with special menu items all weekend long, including Heart shaped pasta filled with Shrimp and Lobster; a Filet with Lobster Tail; Depot Pasta de Mare (pasta with Clams, Prawns, Whitefish and Salmon) and a special array of desserts. Showtime: 9pm on Fri., Feb. 11. Entrées start at \$14.50 and include Soup or Salad. No charge for entertainment; two drink (\$10) minimum in the Rainbow Room (lounge). The Depot, 806 Fourth St. (at Soscol and Third), Napa. Reservations for dining and performances: 707-252-4477. Show reservations taken only in conjunction with dining.



Chanteuse Irene Soderberg brings Valentine cheer to The Depot's Rainbow Room, in Napa. See Friday and Saturday.

Othello @ La Val's Subterranean, Berkeley

Impact Theatre presents a newly reimagined, daring *Othello*, directed by Melissa Hillman. Othello is a dark-skinned African-American lesbian whose battlefield genius has earned her a position of power within the American military. Iago is a light-skinned African-American ensign whose ability to please and assimilate has won him the name "Honest Iago," but whose rage, jealousy and thirst for power bubble just beneath the surface. Starring Skyler Cooper as Othello, Casey Jackson as Iago, and newcomer Marissa Keltie as Desdemona. \$15 gen'l; \$10 student, senior. Thursdays are pay-what-you-wish. Opens Feb. 11 and plays Thu.-Sat. at 8pm thru March 19. La Val's Subterranean Theatre, 1834 Euclid, Berkeley. Tix/info: 510-464-4468.

Whoa Nellies/Shawna Virago @ Cafe Du Nord

In concert: Shawna Virago and The Deadly Nightshade (10pm set); The Whoa Nellies (11pm set); Ethel Merman Experience (12 midnight set). The Whoa Nellies are an outta-sight vocal group with the incredible talents of Leigh Crow and the legendary Miss Connie Champagne. They are a mod quintet specializing in classic three-part harmony pop songs from the mid-to-late 60's and early 70's. They resurrect the lost art of vocal harmonizing as a tribute to their ultra-fab faves: The Mamas and The Papas, The Hollies, The Partridge Family, The Monkees and The Cowbells. \$10 cover. Cafe Du Nord, 2170 Market St. Info: 415-861-5016; www.cafedunord.com

Jacqui Naylor

@ Michael's Octavia Lounge
Composer/vocalist Jacqui Naylor celebrates her jazz roots in special Valentine's Week-end performances that pay tribute to two of her favorite lyricists: Ira Gershwin and Lorenz Hart. With Art Khu on piano & guitar and Emmanuel Vaughn Lee on bass. Shows on Fri & Sat., Feb. 11 & 12 at 9pm; Sun., Feb. 13 at 3pm; and Mon., Feb. 14 at 8:30pm. \$39 & \$49. Cover charge includes 4-course dinner or Sunday brunch. 1772 Market St. (at Octavia). Res: 415-863-3690.

Spencer Day

@ Pan Pacific Hotel

In concert: Spencer Day plays a benefit for New Conservatory Theatre Center. \$25 plus two-drink min. Door opens 7:30; show at 8:30pm. Pan Pacific Hotel, 500 Post St. (at Mason). Tix: 415-923-1452; tix.unpanal.org

Sat 12

Gay Marriage: State of the Heart @ Main Library

Gay Marriage: State of the Heart. Join us on the first anniversary of the marriages performed at San Francisco City Hall. Hear how the issue of same sex marriage affects all of us — single or coupled — personally and politically. Where are we now? What's next in the struggle of our civil rights? Screening of documentary, *One Wedding and a Revolution*, followed by panel discussion including: activist/author Betty Berzon; Kate Kendall of the National Center for Lesbian Rights; Assemblyman Mark Leno; Molly McKay of Equality California; and

Sylvia Rhue of the Freedom to Marry Coalition. Main Library, Lower Level, Koret Auditorium, 2:00 p.m. 100 Larkin Street (at Grove)

The Dance Floor Benefit @ YBCA Forum

After 13 years on Divisadero Street, 848 Community Space is finally moving to a new, larger location. It's called CounterPULSE, and it's at 1310 Mission Street at 9th. Tonight, in for Forum at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, CounterPULSE presents *The Dance Floor Benefit*, an epic spectacle of some of the best in Bay Area Dance. In a rare and generous coming together, ten acclaimed dance companies perform to raise funds for a dance floor at the new CounterPULSE. FEATURING AXIS Dance Company, Circo Zero, Dance Brigade, The Erika Shuch Performance Project, Joe Goode Performance Group, Leslie Selters' little known dance theater, Robert Moses' Kin, Sara Shelton Mann, Scott Wells & Dancers, STEAMROLLER, and the 848 Improv All Stars. \$20. Sat., Feb. 12 at 8pm. YBCA Forum, 701 Mission St. at 3rd St. Info/res: 415-978-ARTS (2787); www.YBCA.org

East Bay Gay Asian Film Fest @ James Moore Theatre, Oakland

The 6th East Bay Gay Asian Film Festival (EBGAFF) comes to the James Moore Theatre (near Lake Merritt BART) this month for a one-night screening of "Am I Asian: A Mixed Race Autobiography" and "Blue Gate Crossing." The former is a documentary short about growing up in the East Bay and the filmmaker's search for identity as a mixed Chinese/Caucasian American, touching on themes of race, family and sexuality and sharing an experience that is both intensely personal and universal. "Blue Gate Crossing," a Cannes Film Festival "Director's Fortnight" selection from Taiwan, is a sensitive coming-of-age tale of queer love and tender attraction involving a love triangle between a young lesbian, her best friend, and the best friend's crush on the school team's swim jock. Free. 7-11pm. James Moore Theatre (inside Oakland Museum of California), 1000 Oak Street, Oakland. Info: 415-986-6830 ext. 371; www.alschc.org/filmfest.htm

In Bed With Fairy Butch @ 12 Galaxies

In Bed With Fairy Butch: Valentine's Day Voodoo! For Gals & Translives of All Colors & Their Pal! All colors, styles, single or coupled, butch, femme, andro and none of the above sorts of dykes and transnines and their pals are welcome and no matter what your type, they'll be there for your macking, dancing and cruising convenience! The club will also feature our fabulous Tingle & Mingle Game and lots of participation from you and your friends! After the show, we're featuring a hip-hop, disco, 80's, R & B and old school dance party, with our fabulous DJ, Atomic Pop! FREE MINI SPEED DATING! (W/Full cover. Come at 8pm). \$10-\$15 sliding (includes a sex toy extravaganza raffle ticket). 12 Galaxies, 2565 Mission St. at 22nd St. Doors: 8pm. Show: 10pm. Info: 415-FEY-8000; www.fairybutch.com

Irene Soderberg/Houston Allred @ The Depot, Napa

Irene Soderberg will be joined in the Rainbow Room by cabaret legend Houston Allred for "My Heart Belongs to Daddy," a special Valentines presentation by two of the foremost artists on the cabaret circuit. Sat., Feb. 12th at 9pm. Call for reservations: 707-252-4477.

'The ROD'

@ Underground SF

Pop in "The ROD," the new alternaqueer monthly presented every 2nd Saturday by Alcoholics Anonymous, aka DJ Bustation John (The Tubesteak Connection) & Jef Leopard (Smut Hut, KY). Featuring heavy cruising & hard, hard cocktails. Feel 'em up & suck 'em down to the retro sounds of 70s/80s glitterleaze and electrocheeze on Lower Haight's foggiest dance floor. \$5. 10pm - 2am. Underground SF (formerly The Top), at 424 Haight St. (Btwn. Webster & Fillmore).

Fauxgirls @ Marlana's

En Drag creator Victoria Secret and the fabulous Alexandria host *Fauxgirls!* With fabulous co-hostess Alexandria. Featuring the blazing talents of Angelica Devarox, Davida, Daffney Deluxe, Nikki Starr, Chanel and special guest stars. Never a cover at Marlana's! Showtime always 10pm. 488 Hayes St. at Octavia. Info: 415-864-6672; www.sldrag.com

Queer Ballroom Dance @ Synergy School

Valentines are the theme at this Saturday night's Queer Ballroom Dance (every 2nd Saturday) No partner or experience needed. 7pm Beginners lesson Night Club 2-Step. 8pm Beginning to Intermediate West Coast Swing. 9pm-Midnight dance to a variety of Ballroom, Latin, Country and Swing. \$10 donation. All ages. Free if under 21. Half off if enrolled in Mon. or Wed. Swing, Salsa or Ballroom Classes. Synergy, 1387 Valencia St. (at 25th St., near 24th St. BART). Info: 415-305-8242; www.Queer-Ballroom.com



Skyler Cooper and Marissa Keltie star in an updated version of *Othello* at La Val's Subterranean Theater, Berkeley. See Friday.

Sun 13

Sundance Saloon's Sweetheart's Ball

@ *space 550

Sundance Saloon presents its annual Sweetheart's Ball, a benefit for Marriage Equality (a project of Equality California). Bring your girlfriend, boyfriend, lover, partner, sweetheart, ex, date, trick, self and wear your best red & white to dance the night away. Featuring two-steppin' and line dancin' 5-10:30pm; country-western dance lessons 5:30-7:15pm; live entertainment with Emperor candidate and vocalist Ed Morgan; raffle to benefit Marriage Equality. \$5 admission. 550 Barneveld Ave. Info: 415-820-1403; www.sundancesaloon.org

The Furr Ball

@ Russian River Eagle

The First Ever Russian River Furr Ball will be held on February 13th from 4pm at the Eagle Bar. Mr. North Coast Leather invites you to a come out of the closet and wear grandma's fur. Guests of honor are Memories That Linger, and Kings and Queens. Prizes for Sexiest Fur, Tribal Fur, and Most original Fur. Raffles, Prizes, and auction. Cover Charge: \$5 to go to Pets Are Loving Support. Info: Jeff Hettinger Mr. North Coast Leather 2005 and Mr. Russian River Eagle 2005: 707-869-0455; www.NorthCoastLeather.org

'In Town Show' @ The Edge

San Francisco Coronation 2005 events kick off this afternoon at 4pm at The Edge, 4149 18th St. (at Collingwood) with the "In Town Show." Coronation night at the Gift Center Pavilion takes place on Sat. Feb. 19. For advance tickets (\$45 & \$55) visit or call Marlens's at 415-864-6672.

SF Hiking Club

@ Hood Mountain

Enjoy the views from Sugarloaf Ridge, separating Napa & Sonoma counties. It's a moderate 9-mile hike with a 2,100-ft. elevation gain. Meet 8:30am under the Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Info: www.sfhiking.com

Mon 14

Dodie Bellamy

@ City Lights Bookstore

Queer literary icon Dodie Bellamy will read with her students in celebration of the re-release of *The Letters of Mina Harker* (2004, University of Wisconsin). Joining Dodie will be Julia Bloch, Colter Jacobsen, Donal Mosher, Aaron Nielsen, Adrienne Robillard, & Zakary Szymanski. In Bellamy's imagined "sequel" to Bram Stoker's fin-de-siècle masterpiece *Dracula*, the plain Jane secretarial adjunct, Mina Harker, is recast as a sexual, independent woman living in San Francisco in the 1980s. The vampire Mina Harker, who possesses the body of author Dodie Bellamy, confesses the most intimate details of her relationships with four vastly different men through past letters. Bellamy is the author of *Feminine Hijinx* (Hanuman, 1990), and an epistolary collaboration on AIDS with the late Sam D'Allesandro, *Real* (Talisman House, 1994). Her book, *Cunt-Ups* (Tender Buttons, 2002) is a radical feminist revision of the "cut-up" pioneered by William Burroughs and Bryon Gysin. She teaches creative writing at Mills College and SF State. Free. Mon., Feb. 14 @ 7 pm. 261 Columbus Avenue at Broadway (North Beach). Info: 415.362.8193; www.citylights.com

Wayne Sutton/Terese Genecco @ The Depot, Napa

Valentines Day, Monday February 14th, will find cabaret celebrity and Napa resident Wayne Sutton presenting his "Love and Kisses" program. Sutton will be joined by Cabaret Entertainer of the Year Terese Genecco in the 8:30pm performance. Res: 707-252-4477

Tue 15

Putanesca @ Trannyshack

Puerto Rican spitfire and drag legend Putanesca celebrates her Birthday with "Viva La Puta Chola", featuring all your favorite Trannyshack superstars! A bohemian nightclub. \$7. Every Tuesday night at The Stud Bar, 9th & Harrison. Show time is midnight. Info: www.heklina.com

Sacha Sacket @ Club Deluxe

Sacha Sacket, a super sexy gay musician with a gorgeous, plaintive voice and superior song-writing skills, armed with a piano and a lifetime of classical training. Sacket performs live in this funky bar in the Upper Haight. Your calendar editor saw him perform here last year and assures you he's one of the hottest young musicians out there. Sacket is currently touring with his second album, *Shadowed*, a gorgeous, moody piece of work. Free. 8pm. 21 + w/D. Info: 415-552-6949; www.ClubDeluxeSF.com; www.SachaSacket.com

Wed 16

Kelly Kegger/Mattilda

@ Smack Dab

"Smack Dab," an open mic at Magnet, hosted by Kirk Read and Larry-Bob Roberts. Bring five minutes of words, music, comedy or miscellany, or just come to bask in the glow. Featured performer Kelly Kegger has been telling stories for years about being a crazy bike messenger, locksmith and tow truck driver. Mattilda, a.k.a. Matt Bernstein Sycamore, is the author of a novel, *Pulling Taffy*, and the editor of *That's Revolting! Queer Strategies for Resisting Assimilation*; *Dangerous Families: Queer Writing on Surviving*; and *Tricks and Treats: Sex Workers Write About Their Clients*. Free. All ages/genders welcomed and adored. Future Smack Dabs all happen on Third Wednesdays at Magnet, sign up at 7:30, show at 8pm. Magnet, 4122 18th Street (btwn Castro and Collingwood). Info: Kirk Read at kirkread@earthlink.net; www.magnetsf.org

Thu 17

Tim Miller's Us

@ YBCA Forum

Performance artist Tim Miller's new solo piece, *Us*, covers a broad spectrum of subject matter from Miller's love affair since childhood with Broadway musicals, to his exploration of home, exile and the injustices lesbian and gay people face in the good ol' USA. \$27 regular; \$23 senior; \$19 YBCA members, students, teachers. 8pm Thu.-Sat., Feb. 17-19. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum, 701 Mission St. at 3rd St. Info/tix: 415-978-ARTS (2787); www.ybca.org

Alphonso Morgan @ A Different Light Bookstore

Reading/booksigning with Alphonso Mor-

gan, author of *Sons*, the story of a teenage boy's struggle with his sexuality in the age of hip-hop. A vivid rendering of the pain, angst and isolation of adolescent homosexuality. Free. 7pm. 489 Castro St. (at 18th). Info: 415-431-0891; www.adlbooks.com

FAMILY JEWELS—The Making of Veronica Klaus

@ EXIT Theater

World Premiere/Special Limited Engagement—12 Performances: Steinbeck Presents *Family Jewels*—The Making of Veronica Klaus. Co-created and directed by Jeffrey Hartgraves. *Family Jewels* tells all the juicy details of Veronica's metamorphosis from husky Midwestern boy to voluptuous Chanteuse. With plenty of scandalous stories, hilarious anecdotes, and of course some great music! The music will consist of original compositions by Ms. Klaus and various covers of songs that augment the material. Music and monologues will be woven together for an emotionally "layered" effect. Reports Ms. Klaus: "We are in the last stages of production for my new CD *Live At The Lodge*! With 13 tracks all recorded live a few months ago at a benefit for the Rainbow World Fund, it's a great collection of Cabaret, Jazz, Pop and Blues." The CD will be out during the run of *Family Jewels* at the theater. \$20 Adult; \$18 Senior; \$17 Theatre Bay Area. 8pm showtime. Runs Thu., Fri. & Sat., Feb. 17-March 12. EXIT Theater, 156 Eddy St. @ Mason. Tix: 866-811-4111 or 415-820-1565; www.steinbeckpresents.org

Mark Weigle, The Whoa Nellies @ International Bear Rendezvous, Eagle Tavern

Thursday Nite Live at the Eagle presents a live music line-up in conjunction with tonight's kick-off of the International Bear Rendezvous 2005 (Feb. 17-21), hosted by the Bears of San Francisco. Bands include The Best Friend's Girlfriends performing The Cars' first album in its entirety; Mark Weigle; and The Whoa Nellies. Join other bears and their admirers for a weekend of fun and fund-raising, and a sense of community. Since the first Rendezvous in 1995, the IBR's net proceeds have resulted in donations totaling over \$250,000 to worthy organizations. Free entry with a IBR 2005 badge. Eagle Tavern, 398 12th St. Info: 415-626-0880; www.sfeagle.com; www.bosf.org

'Crafty Bitches Too'

@ Femina Potens

Every Thursday at 7pm join the folks at Femina Potens for "Crafty Bitches Too"—a free weekly knitting, crocheting, needle pointing, crafting, chatting circle for trans-folk and ladies. Snacks, tea, and drinks. Come hang out, make a scarf, make a friend, or bring a friend. If you don't know how to crochet or knit but want to learn come on down and bring some yarn and needles. Extra yarn on hand for those who don't have their own. Femina Potens, 465 South Van Ness. Info: www.feminapotens.com

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay, a group for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders over the age of 55, hold their new event, "Lavender Lunch Bunch," a catered lunch from 12:30-2:30pm at Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue, Oakland. Co-sponsored by City of Oakland Dept. of Human Services and reaching out to Oakland's LGBT African American, Latino, Native American, Asian and Pacific Islander communities. Open to residents of the East Bay and Western Contra Costa County. Volunteers of all ages needed to be friendly visitors for socially isolated seniors. Info: Peggy Moore, 510-667-9655.

Not About Nightingales

@ Theatre Rhino Studio

Previews (Feb. 17 & 18): The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros presents *Not About Nightingales* by Tennessee Williams. 8pm. Opens Sat., Feb. 19 and runs thru March 13. The Rhino, 2926 16th St. Tix: 415-861-5079; www.the Rhino.org

Ain't It So

@ The Next Stage

Previews (Feb. 17 & 18): West Coast Premiere celebrating Black History Month: CJ Productions presents *Ain't It So*, by Charles Johnson. Pay what you can previews. Opens Feb. 19 & runs thru March 5. The Next Stage, 1620 Gough St. (at Bush). Tix/info: 415-333-6389.

WANNA SUBMIT?

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Hard hats go phat

by John F. Karr

I was going out with this guy named Dominic, a raven-haired Italian who was thick and *al dente* all over, and kind of delectably on the grungy side. As he almost always had his hands stuffed down his drawers, his fingertips carried the odor of his, how shall I say it, ripe genitals.

Upon arriving, he'd caress my cheek. I craved him so constantly that he didn't need to waft the smell of his sex my way to get me going. Yet I couldn't be sure that he was aware of his effect. Like the French, body odor wasn't foreign to him. Only I, an overscrubbed, body-conscious American, would notice. Yet one day, when we were enduring an unfortunately boring movie, he reached over and placed two fingers under my nose. I got the message. Kneeling on the sticky floor of the theatre between his legs, I blew him. The reason I'm remembering Dominic's fingers is because I sure wish he'd been around to waft some pheromones my way when I was watching another boring movie, Dirk Yates' *Drill Bill, Volume 1*.

The box cover of *Drill Bill* touts it as "the 314th film by Dirk Yates." That's an awful lot of porn. Reminds me that nobody can possibly see all the porno that's released each month. I know—I've tried. And what a curious number to celebrate. But connecting such prolificacy to this movie in particular was hardly wise. Yates has made a career out of filming amateur performers (usually billed as "straight amateurs"). But sometimes I think that his camouflage, because even more, he's made a career out of amateurishly made films. This one's plagued with

fuzzy focus, low lighting, and vertiginous videography.

This could be excused if Yates didn't let his cast go about their thing so vaguely. He can hardly be bothered to establish much of a relation between men as they meet, and doesn't encourage a deepening bond as they make out. Forget about shaping sex as an event.

Yates is satisfied to shepherd the performers through its standard positions, and make a record of the proceedings. The final scene, for instance, features the three most attractive cast members, but their cocksucking is mechanical, and their three-man rim-

chain remains unrevealing for so long that it becomes boring. The following fuck doesn't succeed in livening things up much. Nice way to end a movie—in a coma.

Wood working

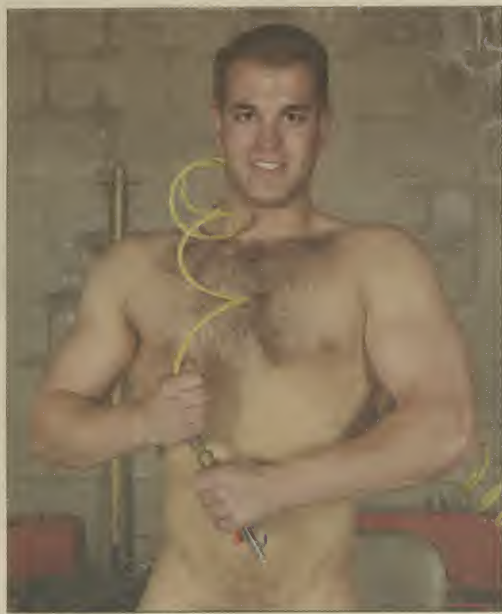
Here it is in a nutshell. These guys are carpenters at a construction site. Yet they hammer a long row of nails where not even one would ever be driven, and pretend to drill holes in places where holes don't go. Actually, they linger over the same hole for so long that if they actually knew how to drill (or had been instructed) they'd have been through to the building next door in the time we were watching. The point is that this *laissez faire* approach to the set-up is the same way Yates treats the sex action.

So I feel some pity for the performers, some of whom started out in Yates' straight amateur flicks. I wonder why wiry Brian Hancock has the name Michael D. inked in Gothic script across his back, but with his slicked-back hair and other ghetto tats (including a big boobed bimbo), he's classic trade. Intriguing, yes, but a

shallow sexualist. A cock sliding back and forth between the lips does not necessarily a cocksucker make. Perhaps Brian/Michael should stick with the big boobs. Clean-cut, cute Stetson isn't yet up to cocksucking, and makes his debut with a solo. He dutifully spreads his buttocks to show us his gently winking asshole. This is a Yates specialty in the time-honored tradition of AMG, and it hasn't gotten any more exciting when offered in such a routine context, like a horse-trader pulling back a critter's gums to show off its teeth. Stetson has no special aptitude for either projecting sexuality or jacking off, but his photogenic, very hard little cock does quite suddenly send long silvery strands of cum clear up to his collarbone.

Cast notes

These two guys might want to seek out a more engaged director, along with several other *Drill Bill* guys. One of them, rugged and hung Kyle Lewis, has been a dependable pro elsewhere; after being dullified in the last scene of *Drill Bill*, he really should tie himself over to Titan. The dark-honey skin and impressively long, slender spear of Bobby Williams have already been contracted to Falcon, and bring some interest to Scene 1 here, with Bobby the middleman of a chain fuck. And I wouldn't mind seeing box-cover guy Bill Ray in better circum-



Dirk Yates' *Drill Bill, Volume 1* box-cover star Bill Ray works his tool.

stances. He's reminiscent of Colt star Mike Timber, minus the heightened glamour, of course. Though Bill's packaged as butch, he has a boyish vulnerability that's appealing, and is a reactive bottom. He's topped in his first scene by Matt, a doughy youngster with a chunky cock who likes to skewer himself on a bone and beat off 'til he blows a resounding blast.

But nobody seeks out a movie for moments, and that's all *Drill Bill* has, moments. With little reason to bring self-laudatory attention to itself, the 314th film by Dirk Yates is just another in a long line of half-baked product. Keep rackin' 'em up, Dirk. ▼

www.allworldsvideo.com

Head of the class

'Inside Deep Throat' opens wide

by David Lamble

Partners in life and in film Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbado have carved a mildly successful career out of chronicling the antics of an assortment of social misfits. These have ranged from the accident-prone male hustlers of Santa Monica Blvd. (*101 Rent Boys*) to the carnival-style religious shenanigans of Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker (*The Eyes of Tammy Faye*) to the homicidal madness of New York club-kid Michael Alig (*Party Monster*). In each case, the subjects of these cautionary tales had run their lives into a ditch, and were happy when Bailey and Barbado, as a sort of gay AAA, showed up to give them a tow, and for their trouble made a low-budget film almost guaranteed not to be seen outside queer precincts and the Sundance Channel.

The Dutch and the Danes have separately tamed the twin demons that lie at the heart of the original furor over *Deep Throat*: prostitution and pornography. The Dutch, with Amsterdam's red-light district, and the Danes, with their sweeping legalization of porn, in effect lanced the boils and inoculated their societies from the madness that would sweep across this country as soon as porn became visible, threatened to become respectable, and did become insanely profitable. Using the financial and cultural clout of their new partner, Hollywood producer Brian Grazer, Bailey and Barbado have recruited some big guns to position the debate over the phenomenon that was *Deep Throat*. Norman Mailer, who at 80 is still America's fastest gun when



it comes to the deeply divisive issues of race and sex, captures the nutty, over-the-top quality of a movie that had celebrities lining up to see Linda Lovelace do her thing at a shabby little theatre off Times Square. "It was a giggle. Americans will sell their souls for a giggle," John Waters observes that *Deep Throat* became a social event when a former First Lady put it on her calendar. "Jackie Kennedy went, and the next week the gross doubled."

Money is everything in America. When a tacky porn movie made for \$25,000 turns around and grosses \$600 million bucks, it is no longer a giggle. What Bailey and Barbado do in *Inside Deep Throat* is to relate the almost slapstick origins of the film that put oral sex on the map in heterosexual porn, while at the same time framing the cultural tempest that had feminists deserting the sexual revolution, attacking Hugh Hefner, and giving Richard Nixon political cover to launch an anti-porn crusade.

Money shot

Gerard Damiano was planning to shoot a typical grindhouse feature, *The Doctor Makes a House*

Call, when suddenly he dreamt up a signature gimmick for a new actress whose big talent was an ability to perform spectacular blow jobs. "I had the whole thing in my head driving over the 59th Street Bridge." The "whole thing" was the notion that Linda Lovelace actually enjoyed giving head because her clitoris was in her throat. It's highly doubtful that Damiano, who at one point jokingly refers to himself as "the Luc Godard" of porn, actually thought he was degrading his female star or imposing some patriarchal idea of sexual subjugation of the female. It was just another "money shot" at a time when close-ups of the sex act were becoming the rage in film porn. An associate of Damiano describes his principal talent. "Gerry knew nothing about acting, but he knew how to get people in a sexual mood." The few scenes Bailey and Barbado show of the movie reveal a film that revealed in its cornball humor. While being orally attended to, Lovelace says to a sexually engaged male head, "Do you mind if I smoke while you eat?" There is just a trace of the kind of informal banter that today graces upscale porn shoots on Showtime or HBO.

Prior to *Deep Throat*, Linda Lovelace had two notable ambitions: the care and feeding of a cat named Adolph Hitler, and a desire to open a clothing boutique. If the gods had been kinder, the money from *Throat* should have made her rich, happy and anonymous. But since she only got \$1,200 for shooting the film (5% of the budget), she began to feel a victim of somebody else's success. Also, while the religious right was muttering about how oral sex was

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A big gay wave of relief

LGBT tsunami benefit was the main event

by Donna Sachet

Without question, the biggest event of last weekend was *Turning the Tide: LGBT Benefit for Tsunami Relief*, on Saturday night at Terra, a breathtaking space at 511 Harrison St. From the moment you entered, you knew you were in for a special evening, starting with the tantalizing silent auction and extensive art show, continuing to the upstairs stage with stellar performances by **Betsy Salkind** (who knew squirrels were so funny?), **Krystle Jones** (this girl has a stellar voice and a bright future), **Tita Aida**, **Equinox**, **Blair Shepard**, **Kim Kuzma**, **Mark Weigle**, and **Veronica Klaus**, and finishing with a rousing dance party including sets from DJs **Page Hodel**, **John LePage**, **David Harness**, **Matthew Baker**, **Nikita**, **Alexander**, **Liam Shy**, and **Pusspuss**.

Rarely has our community come together with such dedication to produce and support such a far-reaching event. Kudos to all who helped to make it happen. Early estimates indicate that over 700 people came through the doors. The crowd was truly a slice of San Francisco in all its rich diversity. Net proceeds will benefit

the Rainbow World Fund (www.rainbowfund.org) and will go to the International C.A.R.E. efforts to stabilize and revive the lives of so many affected by the tragic tsunami in December.

Bingo in the Castro is back! Thanks to **Sister Tilly Comes Again**, who would not take no for an answer, and many others of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, that great monthly fundraiser and much-beloved event has returned as *Revival Bingo* at MCC on Eureka Street the first Thursday of every month!

This past Thursday's long-awaited return benefited the **SF Gay Men's Chorus**, who gave us a taste of their upcoming cabaret show, and was hosted by celebrity Miss Gay SF **Manny Lennox**, looking brilliant in aqua paillettes. Candidate for Emperor **John-Richard** and candidate for Empress **Chika** were both there, stirring up excitement for the Imperial Council race. Very smart move, kids!

Of the bevy of bedecked nuns present, two deserve special mention: Sister **Dana Van Iquity**, just because she keeps on giving, and Sister **Betty**, who relocated outside of California, but who returned for *Revival Bingo* with a cadre of lobster-decorated friends. Some things are best attended be-



Sandy 'Mama' Reinhardt: busty.

cause they can never adequately be explained in a "family" newspaper, so head out to the next *Revival Bingo* on March 3, and best of luck! Just remember to turn those cell phones off, unless punishment from a Sister of Perpetual Indulgence is your idea of fun.

Last Friday night, **Connie Champagne** paraded her stuff at the Pan Pacific cocktail lounge, part of **Stu Smith's** Tin Pan Alley Productions. This group is dedicated to encouraging new and emerging talent in readily available venues, often benefiting local charitable organizations. That night's proceeds went to Community United Against Violence, one of Connie's favorite groups, and the audience was attentive and en-



Donna Sachet turns up with Jeff Cotter, Kelly Hart and Michael Altschuler.

thusiastic. Ably accompanied by fabled Cockette **Scrumby Koldewyn**, Connie emerged from her recent and greatly successful **Judy Garland** impersonation in a sleek black dress accented with rhinestone brooches, to exhibit her own very personal and considerable vocal talent. **Ken Henderson** and

Joe Seiler (of the Richmond/Ermet Foundation) and **Michael Acabado** were spotted in the audience. Watch for upcoming cabaret evenings with **Tim Hockenberry**, **Denise Perrier**, and **Spencer Day** at this Post Street locale. More information at

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On The Town

Deep Throat

◀ previous page

dirty, the feminists (supported by the research of Masters and Johnson) were complaining that women could achieve more pleasure by being less concerned with male needs. Not surprisingly, after first basking in her newfound fame, Lovelace finally took to denouncing fans of *Deep Throat*. "Every time they watch that movie, they're watching me being raped."

Photo stand

Bailey and Barbado are especially adept at tracking the even-more-perplexing fate of Lovelace's male co-star, Harry Reams. A contemporary of Reams remembers how quickly he could become aroused. "Harry could get an erection at the sound of a camera motor."

Originally hired as production assistant, stuck in the role at the last minute and paid a paltry \$250, Reams would bear the full brunt of the legal debacle that erupted when a New York judge declared *Deep Throat* obscene, and later, when Reams was convicted of committing a lewd act on screen. While no great artist, Reams was remarkably articulate on the role of the artist in promoting free expression. A moving segment shows him standing up in a TV debate to the bullying tactics of Roy Cohn.

Bailey and Barbado identify with the underdog, while avoiding cheap shots. In *The Eyes of Tammy Faye*, they downplayed the Bakkers' fleecing of their TV flock while underscoring their betrayal by the politically malicious Jerry Falwell. In *Inside Deep Throat*, they portray *Deep Throat's* makers as naive if lovable lugs, while casting a suspicious eye on the right-wing anti-porn crusaders.

The filmmakers note who did and didn't see *Deep Throat*. Dick Cavett, who got Hefner debating feminist critics of the film, says he's still amused at the furor it caused. "I'm one of the few persons who still hasn't seen it. Perhaps you can arrange a screening." Typically, Cavett rival Johnny Carson both caught the film and found a wise-crack to defuse his late-night audience's unease with oral-sex jokes. Alluding to the irony that *Deep Throat* had been adopted by Watergate reporters Woodward and Bernstein as a nickname for their never-named informant at the same time Nixon was refusing to release his secret White House recordings, Carson quipped, "The judges can see the film, but they still can't hear the tapes."

Emphasizing that the distribution of *Deep Throat* was a wacky crime-caper worthy of *The Sopranos*, Bailey and Barbado show a retired Miami theatre-owner whose wife yells at him for going into business with the film's Mafia bagman, while he's being interviewed.

Reprising the whole scary history, from Nixon's rejection of a Presidential commission report exonerating porn as a source of social ills, through the Reagan Administration's attempt to prosecute porn with the Meese Commission, Bailey and Barbado illustrate how the right is emboldened by sectarian feuding on the left.

When *Deep Throat* was banned by a New York judge, the theatre owners had a witty farewell message on the marquee. "Throat Cut. America Mourns." Larry Parish, the prosecutor who got *Deep Throat* declared obscene, has no regrets and only hopes that John Ashcroft's successor will stay the course. "Now if we could only get these terrorists to go away and stop taking up so much time of the Department of Justice." (Opens Friday.) ▼

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LEATHER SCENE

Help 'Dykes On Bikes'

by Mister Marcus

Few events get the blood roaring, the expectation soaring and the adrenaline surging like watching the Women's Motorcycle Contingent (also known as Dykes on Bikes) roaring down the parade route, the first group in San Francisco's annual Gay Pride Parade. For the past 25 years, few floats or marching groups have received the cheers and applause for the visibility of women motorcyclists and dykes on bikes and women in general. Often some 300 or more bikes thundering down the parade route attest to the diversity of this community, the moments when the visibility of our women is at its highest and brightest.

About two years ago, a woman from Oregon attempted to register and copyright the name "Dykes on Bikes" for the sole purpose of monetary gain by forming a corporation, selling stock in that corporation and assess a fee to anyone using the name. The SFWMCDOB organizing committee voted to fight this blatant attempt because of the documented long history of Dykes on Bikes by insisting the name be held in public trust. Their lawyer successfully halted the attempt of patenting, registering or trade marking "Dykes on Bikes," but at a cost.

To prevent this sort of attempt in the future, the SFWMCDOB has submitted a petition register "Dykes on Bikes" to insure the name is left in the public domain for the use of all women who identify as dykes on bikes. This process is costly. Here is where your help is needed. Donations to pay for legal fees are being solicited. The only income for the group is the parade registration fee, which the group uses for the next year's parade expenses. SFWMCDOB is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization so your contribution/donation is tax deductible. Make your checks payable to SFWMCDOB and mail to SF Motorcycle Contingent, PO Box 13781, San Francisco, CA 94114.

A busy leather month

It's going to be busy from coast to coast for leather aficionados during the coming weeks and it starts this weekend in San Francisco with the "Bondage and Bonbons" event on Friday, February 11 at



Randy Wheeler of Oklahoma won the South Central Leather Sir 2005 title in Dallas. He shared the moment with South Central Leather boy Mike Fry.

the Center for Sex and Culture, 398 - 11th St., presented by Pervcity. For details, surf to www.pervcity.org.

The weekend of February 17-21 is a pastiche for nearly every taste with the International Bear Rendezvous weekend and choosing International Mr. Bear among other things. Bears of San Francisco are featuring the Kinsey Sicks, the Mark Weigle Band, "Bearcub the Movie" and dozens of other events.

That same weekend is the Imperial Coronation of the Emperor and Empress of San Francisco.

In Chicago, it's the Mr. Cell Block Leather contest, the Pantheon of Leather Awards and a ceremony entitled "Burning the Mortgage" at the Leather Archives & Museum.

The annual Motorcycle Awards takes place the same night as the coronation and the visit to Emperor Joshua Norton's grave on Sunday with much pomp and circumstance.

In Philadelphia, a weekend-long schedule is in place for the

Mr. and Ms. Philadelphia Leather Contest. In Los Angeles, the Regiment of the Black & Tans Uniform Club stages their Mr. Regiment Leather contest at the Gauntlet II and in London, Mr. Hoist Leather will be selected at that world-famous leather bar.

The weekend of February 24-27, Mr. and Ms. South Plains will be chosen during the South Plains Leatherfest in Dallas and the International Master/slave competition will be chosen there as well.

In San Diego, that city's newest leather emporium, Ringold Alley, will choose Mr. Ringold Alley Leather at the Hole on Friday, February 25. The winner advances to compete in the Mr. San Diego Leather contest the weekend of March 4-6.

The 15 Association will celebrate their 15th anniversary on Friday, February 25th with an elaborate dinner at the Pan Pacific Hotel in San Francisco and their monthly play party the next night. And Mr. Ashram West Leather will be chosen at the Gauntlet II on Saturday night, February 26th.

Throw in the SoMa Bare Chest

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, February 10

Northern California Sir Tom Braddock celebrates his 40th birthday at the Loading Dock tonight (at 2000) with a \$25 donation to benefit Stop AIDS Project, which includes complimentary beverages at the Powerhouse, Loading Dock and a free pass to Blow Buddies.

Friday, February 11

"Bondage & Bonbons" from 2000 to 2300 at the Center for Sex & Culture (398 - 11th St. by Perv City).

Saturday, February 12

Mr. Bullet Leather contest at the Bullet Bar in North Hollywood tonight. No details at my deadline.

Wednesday, February 16

Underwear Buddies at 933 Harrison tonight with doors open from 2100 to 2300. Info: 777-HEAD.

Thursday, February 17

SoMa Bare Chest Calendar contest at the Powerhouse at around 2200 tonight. See who makes the grade for the finals in April.

Weekend, February 17-21

International Bear Rendezvous goes through Monday with tons of events.

Imperial Coronation in San Francisco on the 19th, with tons of out-of-towners of the royal persuasion.

Inter-Club Fund Motorcycle Awards on Saturday night at Most Holy Redeemer Church.

In Chicago, Mr. Cell Block Leather contest and Pantheon of Leather Awards on Saturday; LA&M Mortgage Burning ceremony on Sunday.

In Philadelphia, Pandora and Victor step aside for their successors as Mr. and Ms. Philadelphia Leather.

Mr. Regiment Leather in Los Angeles, and in London, Mr. Hoist Leather on Saturday night.

POLKSTRASSE

The crown goes to...

A glittery Coronation Weekend in SF

by Sweet Lips

It is again time for the Emperor and Empress campaigns here in San Francisco, and my vote for empress goes to that hard-working Ms. Victoria Secret of *Fauxgirls* fame. I have known and worked with Victoria for many years, and believe me, she is a hard-working, dedicated individual. Good luck to you, Victoria! And remember, voting day is on February 12 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Contact Marlena's at 415-864-6672. Get out and vote! For Victoria!

Don't forget Coronation Day is Saturday, February 19 at the Gift Center Pavilion at 888 Brannan Street, presided over by Emperor Fernando and Empress China Silk. It's a classy affair. The rules say "no open flames, confetti, glitter, bare butts or breasts at the Coronation" — so no flicking your Bic, and unless you have a wardrobe malfunction, keep those nipples hidden! The doors open at 5 p.m. and the celebration kicks off at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$55 (celebration seating) and \$45 (history seating) per person. Tickets can be obtained at Marlena's, 488 Hayes St. Call 415-864-6672. You can email marlenaxxv@sbcglobal.net.

The sensational Portland Party takes place on the same day, Sat., Feb. 19, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Ginger's Trois, 246 Kearny Street, hosted by Emperor 16 A.N. Steven Rascher. This is a grand affair and yes, Empress Mame will be down for the occasion, as well as Yours Truly. Come down and join the fun.

Many Coronation-related events will be happening, including the Monarch's Reception on Friday, Feb. 18 at Marlena's from



A-tisket, a-tasket: Sweet Lips-endorsed Ms. Victoria Secret with basket.

5-7 p.m. at Marlena's, hosted by Emperor Rascher, and later that night the "Out of Town Show" at 8 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of the Sir Francis Drake Hotel.

Tickets are \$10, and priority is given to reigning monarchs. Don't forget The Widow Norton's Trip to Joshua Norton's Grave on the 20th. This is going to be Jose's last trip there... Actually, there will be one more, but she won't remember it. The bus leaves Marlena's at 8:30 a.m., so don't miss it! You can get further details from flyers at Marlena's and elsewhere.

Well, it must be great to live in Puerto Vallarta, and to come to San Francisco for a vacation. Yes, Dick Deemer arrived here this week for a few days and really looked terrific! Too bad he didn't bring his hot boyfriend Ramon along for the ride.

The popular Rachael is at Kimo's under the direction of

Charlie, and he works Tues. and Wed., 2-8 p.m., and can you believe Rachael, who refused to work mornings, is also working Fri-Sun., 8 a.m.-2 p.m.! Miracles do indeed happen.

Oh, by the way, Greta Grass wishes to say hello to all of you out there.

Yes, the very fabulous "Woody" is on the planks at the Metro, 3600 16th St., but rumor has it he might be moving to Palm Springs. We certainly would miss him.

Here is wishing everyone a splendid Coronation weekend, and a special thank you to the past royals of Portland for the title years ago of Imperial Czarena de Portland, on condition that I never even consider living there!

I wish to extend my warmest welcome to the writing staff of the BAR to the very popular, talented and of course sexy Ms. Donna Sachet! Can't you hear the readers' applause ringing out across the land? You will be a great addition to the staff, honey! Looking forward to reading each and every column. ▼



Sweet Lips

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

Calendar contests on February 17 and 24th (both on Thursdays) and a couple of birthday parties for leather personalities and you have a tidy package of something to do every weekend. And wait until you see all that's going on in March!

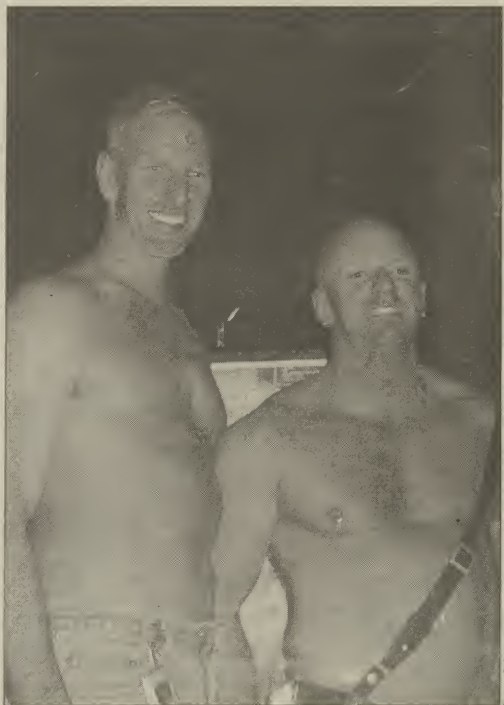
More titles, more sashes

Six new leather titleholders emerged during the last weekend of January and the producers finally sent out the results and they are as follows: At Flesh & Fantasy in Dallas, Lou Sedlacek (a former Mr. San Diego Leather) was chosen Mr. Texas Leather. South Central Leather Sir and boy chosen were Sir Randy Wheeler (from Tulsa) and boy Mike "boy stallion" Fry. The community bootblack is Darrin White of Houston.

In Phoenix, Arizona, Mitch Shulte was chosen Mr. Padlock Leather and Joe Kunkle was the runner-up.

In Anchorage, Alaska, Mark Plimpton was chosen Mr. Alaska Leather and Doug "Horse" Veit was chosen Mr. Bear Alaska. Both will compete at IML in 2006.

Until next week then, keep living, keep loving, keep laughing (at yourself too, if need be) and keep volunteering, just do it in leather. ▼



The winners of the 2nd round of the SoMA Bare Chest Calendar contest were Mark Hollenstein, left, and Jim Hill.

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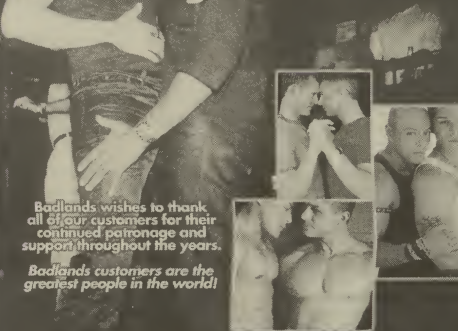
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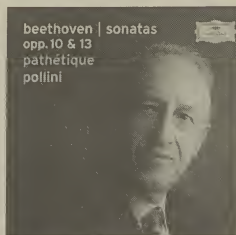
From both young and old masters on CD

by Tim Pfaff

Maurizio Pollini's new CD of Beethoven's Op. 10 Sonatas and Op. 13, *Pathétique* (DG) comes as a relief after his jarring last Beethoven release, a sonata group built around the *Appassionata*. I went back to it again before checking out another version of the *Appassionata* which appears at the end of Jonathan Biss' debut CD for EMI, and still found it unlistenable, a crushing interpretation that suggests Pollini was working out something that went beyond the already ample challenges of Op. 57, which took the piano itself farther than it had ever gone, and left it there until the next works he wrote for it four years later.

Pollini's Beethoven, assertive, architectural, and in its own way revolutionary, has never been to all tastes. Still, it has set standards for clarity of articulation and strength of interpretation that have consistently raised the bar. The most refreshing thing about the new CD is that, no matter what you think about Pollini's Beethoven, it's back to its old self. There's nothing shrinking about his approach to the earlyish Op. 10 sonatas, which he approaches with his usual rock-solid tone and strong sense of inner propulsion. I don't know if I've heard any Pollini Beethoven I'd describe as "loving," but a word that does describe

beethoven | sonatas
opp. 10 & 13
pathétique
pollini



his view of these three sonatas is respectful. The central Adagio in the C-minor No. 1 lures you into thinking that Pollini's going to get dreamy on you, but it's not long until he's hammering his interpretation home once again.

His immaculate technique and clear view of the pieces' architecture and scope mollify any negative effects. It's not a claim you can make often, but the simple fact is that rival pianists could only unearth less in the pieces, or sentimentalize them. Everything Pollini brings out in them seems that essential.

The *Pathétique* emerges in a nearly ideal interpretation that I found easily outshone all the other versions in my reduced, transoceanic collection. There's a boundless (but this time not a scary) energy in every phrase. The big tunes are all there, busting their buttons unashamedly, but getting equal attention from Pollini are the important inner voices, particularly the repeated notes.

I always want more "singing" from a cantabile movement than Pollini's going to give me, but the sense of calm that emerges from the sheer solidity of his playing in the central Adagio cantabile is compellingly offset by the fleeting dissonances in the movement so often passed over by lesser interpreters. The concluding Rondo has a spring in its gait that vaults it to that sense of something new having been achieved that so lies at the heart of the greatest Beethoven sonatas.

Fantastic voyage

Jonathan Biss' headlong rush through Beethoven's G-minor *Fantasy*, Op. 77, which opens his first CD, leaves no doubt that he is a keyboard technician to reckon with. The scales are remarkably even, the articulation crisp and clear throughout. It's nimble playing that also stops to smell the roses without leaving sap on its hands.

Still, its considerable virtues, most notably the strong sense of rubato, are finally eclipsed by the cumulative sense that this is another young pianist who is determined to prove that he can play as loud and fast as anyone else. His comment in his long, wise-beyond-his-years accompanying essay, that the piece gives us a glimpse of Beethoven's skills as an improviser, is well-taken. But his playing communicates more the ostentation than the invention involved.

The *Appassionata* Sonata that



concludes the disc provides stronger proof that he is, in fact, a pianist of stature. In the wake of Pollini's pulverizing *Appassionata*, even the forceful attacks that mark Biss' playing throughout do not obscure a more satisfying interpretation overall. His handling of the sonata's fearsome repeated notes is cleaner and more expressive than Pollini's, and his sense of the work's overall structure no less clear. Most effective of all is his canny use of shrewdly judged pauses before major statements, which connect rather than separate. The chord voicing in the central Andante is masterful, and in sheer depth of feeling he surpasses his older colleague. The playing is more involving simply for being more varied. His assault on the titanic final movement leaves you with the same mixture of admiration and shock and awe the *Fantasy* does.

Where he really proves himself a mature, fully-formed musician is in the exquisite reading of Schumann *David* nestled between the Beethoven works. He takes to the composer's eccentric rhythms like mother's milk, captures the unique cast of each movement, and indulges some musical poetry that lingers long in the memory. ▼

Valentine's gay

by Gregg Shapiro

Valentine's Day has a funny way of sneaking up on us, so with the lovers' holiday coming up, here are some romantic musical suggestions. The music that follows is appropriate for drinks, dinner and whatever follows.

The gay community's very own cupid, Rufus Wainwright, is the first voice we hear on the various artists compilation *Sweetheart: Love Songs* (Hear Music). Wainwright's reading of "My

Funny Valentine" is perfection, allowing him to renew a timeworn tune with his own unique blend of personal style and savvy. The remaining 14 selections are an assortment of vintage and contemporary standards performed by some of the biggest names in cutting-edge music. M. Ward opens the door to twang on his rendition of Pete Townshend's "Let My Love Open the Door." Neko Case gently pours it on for her version of Bob Dylan's "Buckets of Rain." Martina Topley-Bird maintains a retro feel on "I Only Have Eyes for You," while Joseph Arthur does

Morrissey and the Smiths proud with his cover of "There Is a Light That Never Goes Out."

A vast improvement over 2002's Human Rights Campaign benefit disc *Being Out Rocks* (which didn't), the double-disc, various-artists anthology *Love Rocks* (Centaur), benefiting HRC, is a loving blend of LGBT artists and allies from the straight community. The music and the moving quotes from the performers speak to loving whomever we choose and being our beautiful queer selves in the face of adversity. The many independent queer voices include Jen Foster, The Bootlickers, L.P., Kinnie Starr, Eric Himan, Garrin Benfield and Ari Gold, as well as sax player Dave Koz and an uncredited k.d. lang (who sings a stunning duet with Carole King on "An Uncommon Love").

Both Ari Gold and The Bootlickers can also be heard on

the two-disc multi-artist compilation *Marry Me* (Figiam), separated into *Ceremony* and *Reception* CDs. This set has Marcella Detroit (of Shakespeare's Sister fame) and Bree ("David Duchovny") Sharp, and queer performers including Mark Weigle, Yolanda, Daniel Cartier, and RuPaul. The ACLU Foundation's Lesbian & Gay Rights and AIDS Projects benefit from sales of this disc.

Openly gay jazz artist Fred Hersch has created a musical valentine to Walt Whitman with *Leaves of Grass* (Palmetto). Pianist Hersch composed all the music to which he set Whitman poems "After the Dazzle of the Day," "The Mystic Trumpeter," "The Sleepers," "Whoever You Are Holding Me Now in Hand," and "Song of Myself." He's joined by vocalists Kurt Elling and Kate McGarry, who both sing and speak Whitman's words, backed up by an ensemble. ▼



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On the Town

◀ page 41

www.tinpanalley.org.

With the arrival of additional cabaret performance spaces such as Michael's Octavia Lounge (where on Saturday night, February 12, at 11 p.m., interested parties can catch a late show with **Yours Truly** accompanied on the piano by **Charles Britt Endsely**) to augment the world-renowned Empire Plush Room, things are looking up for live singers in San Francisco.

Only a couple of days remain to obtain tickets for the nearly sold-out Equality California Dinner in the Rotunda of City Hall on

Saturday, February 12, celebrating the anniversary of Mayor **Gavin Newsom's** courageous decision to allow same-sex couples to apply for San Francisco marriage licenses (www.eqca.org). It's also the day to vote for the next Emperor and Empress of the city. Voting occurs from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at Magnet, 4122 18th St., and from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at Project Open Hand, 730 Polk St. The candidates have been working hard to gain your support. After that, we slide right into Imperial Coronation Week, and you can expect a detailed analysis right here in the issue following. We'll report on the official happenings and reveal the inside goings-on. Don't miss it! ▼

Speed bumps

by Jim Piechota

Tweakers: How Crystal Meth is Ravaging Gay America by Frank Sanello; Alyson Books, \$15.95

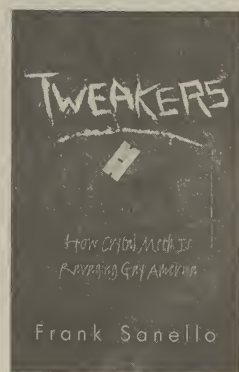
Frank Sanello's even-handed, lacerating examination of America's festering methamphetamine scourge should have been subtitled *How Crystal Meth is Ravaging America*, because according to recent reports, it is affecting everyone, everywhere, not just the homosexual community.

A longtime Los Angeles-based journalist and syndicated columnist, Sanello posted ads in gyms and on websites searching for people — on the wagon, off the wagon, or under the wagon — who would be willing to share their experiences with crystal meth. After sifting through the defensive hate-mail he received, experiences both sad and surprising are weaved into an exhaustive amount of clinical information.

The positive and negative attributes of using a drug like methamphetamine in its many forms ("insufflation," "hot-railing," "booty bumps") are detailed with clear, basic, and oftentimes street-flavored medical terminology. Nothing in this book will be above anyone's head, and some of it might even be stomach-turning for some, like meth's ingredient list, incorporating drain-cleaner, ether, antifreeze, lantern fuel, and cyanide.

Sanello, supported by a battalion of doctors and behavioral specialists, explains why "Tina" is so instantaneously addictive, creating a physical and psychological euphoria powerful enough to prop open the door to addiction, and a downward spiral that can end in physical collapse, mental psychosis, and often suicide.

Many of the voices in the book agree that crystal meth turbocharges sexual pleasure, heightens senses, and is relatively cheap, but those same voices are quick to reveal the drug's toxic underbelly: heart attacks, rotting teeth, week-long binges, muscle deterioration, STD exposures, schizophrenia, skin abscesses, hallucinations, impotence, and an unsettling disorder called formication, where the skin is believed to be inhabited by crawling insects.



der called formication, where the skin is believed to be inhabited by crawling insects.

Fascinating history, fact-based research, and a book by "Uncle Fester" on methamphetamine manufacturing (astonishingly available on Amazon.com) complement the scores of men and women Sanello interviewed, some offering sobering and harrowing portraits of their ordeals, and some terminating their participation midway through because even the mere mention of smoking crystal was enough to make them go home and get high.

But some interviewees were just comfortably dumb. Jonathan, a vainglorious and viciously arrogant bartender/masseur, boasts of his fearless 18-year tenure with HIV, his unblemished health record, and his ongoing (and increasing) use of crystal methamphetamine.

Sanello's book is fundamentally indispensable and serves as a vital cautionary chronicle both for those who have been down the drug path and made it home in one piece, and for users who remain rudderless like Tom, a Los Angeles projectionist, who prophesizes that "West Hollywood could become a gay ghost-town in 20 years because of the double whammy of crystal and the unprotected sex it promotes."

Frank Sanello's gripping account provides no happy ending, but the 18 pages of resource material in the back offer hope and maybe even those first steps toward recovery. ▼

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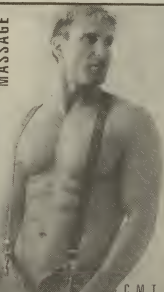
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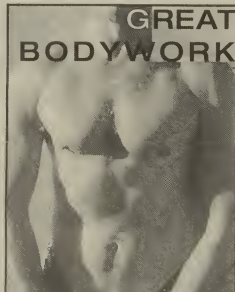
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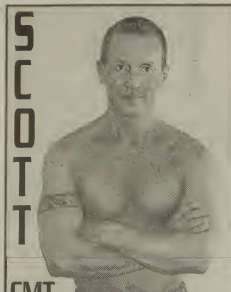
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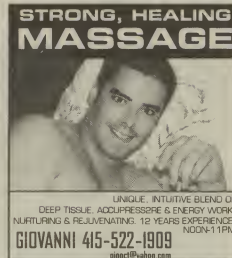
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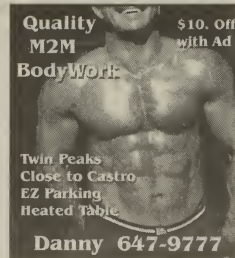
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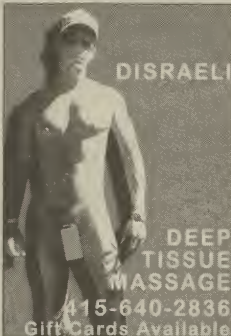
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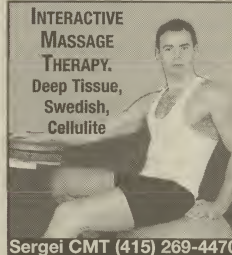
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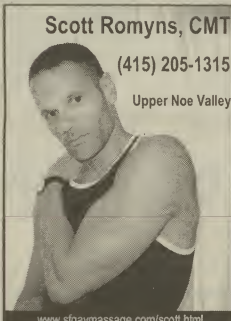
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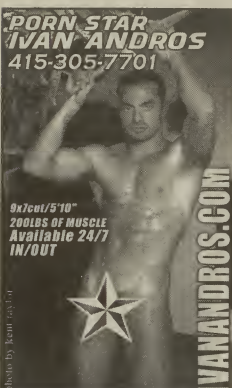
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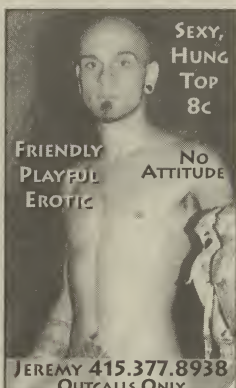
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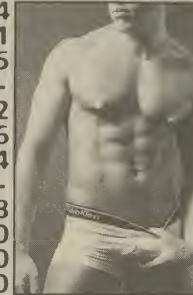
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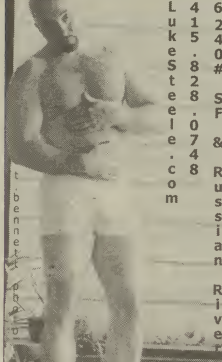


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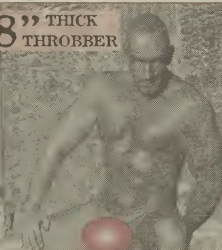
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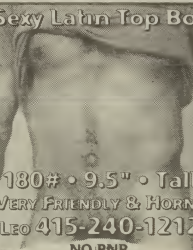


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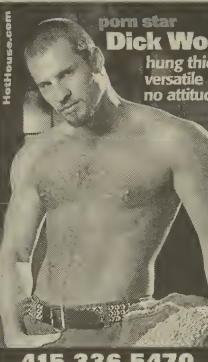


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Cliff's Variety - Friday 1/20 4pm
Me on cell phone at front door. You very cute, long black overcoat and sharp green slacks looking at daily calendars. Hope you can fit "me" in your schedule!
☎ 71479

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Legal Resident GLM
Me: GLM early 40's H:5'7 W:155 Husky look. Versatile w/nice ass and body. HIV+ and healthy. Tattoos/piercings clean body and mind. You: GWM/GLM 30/40 yrs. H:5'5-5'10 W:150/160. Versatile flat stomach HIV+ healthy N/D
☎ 71485

Musician, Yogi, writer
Looking for new boyfriend - must be: funny, under 45 (I am 34), creative, kind, caring, healthy, good listener. See ya!
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I'm Glad I'm not Young Anymore
What? At 67 I don't feel the need to downplay my age. White hair 5'5" blue eyes seeks men of color. I'm easy to reach in Haight area only.
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Bi-6ft smooth white boy 8 1/2 hung ISO mature man or men into role play, fantasy video + internet exhibitionism, verbal, who knows?
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In your truck or rest stop by bottom bear, 44, 5'9", 210, beard, hairy, HIV-. Any age 25-65. Very oral, greek passive, submissive. One or more at a time.
☎ 71472

White Ass Needs Fucked
I'm on my belly for you to mount, plow, 50/5'11"/185# shaved head - brown trim beard, tan line, muscular ass, any age/race.
☎ 71474

Very Good Looking Bottom Latino
In his 30's ISO Bi or Gay top, handsome, clean, serious, healthy 25-45yo guys for friendship and fun. Any race and a big tool.
☎ 71470

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Hot, masculine top, 38, 5'11" 175#, seeks well built bottom with nice ass for over the knee spanking, role playing and plowing your ass
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WM, 41, gently, expertly probes bodybuilders and other athletes' taut, muscular, quivering butt cheeks. Slow, talented finger. Loud moans a plus.
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BAR TALK

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- Parting Glances ☐
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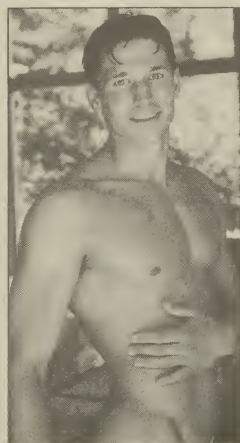
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Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. **One ad per customer per week.**

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